

YUKON-KUSKOKWIM DELTA ALASKA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME I

Yupiit Piciryarait Cultural Center
Bethel, Alaska
October 12, 2017
9:00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lester Wilde, Chair
Robert Aloysius
John Andrew
David Bill
William Brown
James Charles
Annie Cleveland
Dorothy Johnson
Raymond Oney
Michael Peters
Dale Smith - (Telephonic)
Anthony Ulak

Regional Council Coordinator, Eva Patton

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Bethel, Alaska - 10/12/2017)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: First order of today is our invocation, and that will be led by Mr. Robert Aloysius.

Bob, please. Go ahead.

MR. ALOYSIUS: In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen. Heavenly Father, Creator, Maker of the universe, thank You for bringing us here together to share knowledge and wisdom of our ancestors, the love, patience, generosity, kindness, humility and humor of our grandparents, the strength and courage of our parents, but most of all the energy of our youth, the vision and dreams of our children, and the spirit and innocence of our infants. We ask You to bless each and every one of us and our loved ones we left at home so that we can share what we know of what is going on in this land. Let us be ever mindful of our other relations, our relations that fly, root, climb, walk, hop, jump, skip, crawl, slither, burrow, swim, and grow on Mother Earth so that we may be more worthy of the promises of our ancestors that said if you treat Mother Earth, she'll reward you.

I would ask this in Jesus' name, amen.

IN UNISON: Amen.

MR. ALOYSIUS: In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Before I call the meeting to order, we want to make sure that public comments are welcome for each agenda item, and for regional concerns that are not included on the agenda. The Council appreciates your concerns and knowledge, so please fill out a comment card somewhere -- comment card, a blue card I believe. Is it a blue or green card? It's a blue card back there, you can get one there on the table. And the times on the agenda are estimated times and could be subject to change, so any public comments are welcome for each agenda item. If

1 there aren't any need for any public comment at this
2 moment.

3
4 Is there anyone here that would like to
5 address the Council.

6
7 (No comments)

8
9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If not, then we will
10 continue with our agenda. Secretary -- who's our
11 secretary.

12
13 MR. ULAK: Oh, here.

14
15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah. Could you
16 please call the roll.

17
18 MR. ULAK: Okay. David Bill, Senior.

19
20 MR. BILL: Here.

21
22 MR. ULAK: Robert Aloysius.

23
24 MR. ALOYSIUS: Here.

25
26 MR. ULAK: Raymond Oney.

27
28 RAYMOND ONEY: Here.

29
30 MR. ULAK: Dorothy Johnson.

31
32 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council,
33 Dorothy was weathered out yesterday, and she is on
34 stand-by flight this morning, and a confirmed flight
35 this afternoon if they're able to fly. She was going
36 to join us by teleconference this morning.

37
38 MR. ULAK: Annie Cleveland.

39
40 MS. CLEVELAND: Here.

41
42 MR. ULAK: Dale Smith, Jr.

43
44 MR. SMITH: Here.

45
46 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Counsel, he
47 will also be joining us on teleconference.

48
49 MR. SMITH: Yes, I just joined.

50

1 MR. ULAK: Michael Peters.
2
3 MR. PETERS: Here.
4
5 MR. ULAK: John Andrew.
6
7 MR. ANDREW: Here.
8
9 MR. ULAK: James Charles.
10
11 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council,
12 James Charles was also weathered out yesterday. He's
13 scheduled on an 8:50 flight this morning. Hopefully if
14 that arrives, he'll be here at 9:30.
15
16 MR. ULAK: William Brown.
17
18 MR. BROWN: Here.
19
20 MR. ULAK: Myself, Anthony. Lester
21 Wilde.
22
23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes.
24
25 MR. ULAK: We have a quorum, Mr.
26 Chairman.
27
28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We have quorum's been
29 established.
30
31 I'd like to welcome you all for coming
32 to attend our meeting. And the weather was a little
33 bit bad out there yesterday, and it's always good to
34 see all of you guys back here that we haven't seen for
35 a while. And at this time we would like to get some
36 introductions going, starting from way back there on
37 the back, the guy with the cap, stand up and introduce
38 yourselves, please, and work your way forward. Thank
39 you.
40
41 MR. ANDERSON: (Indiscernible -- away
42 from microphones) Evan Anderson and (indiscernible) I
43 work for (indiscernible) the Alaska Center.
44
45 MR. ALOYSIUS: Speak up. We can't hear
46 back here.
47
48 MS. PATTON: Come up to the mic. It's
49 morning exercise. You can all run up to the mic and
50

1 introduce yourselves.

2

3 MR. ANDERSON: Good morning. My name
4 is Evan Anderson. I'm based in Anchorage, and I work
5 for the Alaska Center. Thanks for having me.

6

7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Good way to start a
8 meeting, get everybody started running.

9

10 (Laughter)

11

12 MS. HYER: Good morning. My name is
13 Karen Hyer, and I work with the Office of Subsistence
14 Management.

15

16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Welcome.

17

18 MS. WORKER: Good morning, everyone.
19 I'm Suzanne Worker. I'm with the Office of Subsistence
20 Management as well. I'm a wildlife biologist.

21

22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Welcome to Bethel.

23

24 MS. MUTTER: Good morning. I'm Sarah
25 Mutter. I work for AVCP.

26

27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Good morning and
28 welcome.

29

30 MR. HARRIS: Good morning. My name's
31 Frank Harris. I'm a fish biologist with the Office of
32 Subsistence management.

33

34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Good morning.

35

36 MR. STAHLNECKER: Good morning. Ken
37 Stahlnecker, Fish and Wildlife Service refuge manager
38 for Yukon-Delta National Wildlife Refuge.

39

40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Good morning to you,
41 too, sir.

42

43 MS. POWERS: Good morning. My name is
44 Elizabeth Powers. I'm here with the Western Alaska
45 Landscape Conservation Cooperative.

46

47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Good morning,
48 Elizabeth.

49

50

1 MR. JONES: Good morning. I'm Patrick
2 Jones. I'm from the Alaska Department of Fish and
3 Game. I'm the local area biologist here in Bethel.
4
5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Good morning and
6 welcome.
7
8 MR. PERRY: Good morning. My name is
9 Phillip Perry. I'm the Region 5 management coordinator
10 for Fish and Game.
11
12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Good morning Perry.
13
14 MS. OLSON: Good morning. I'm Lisa
15 Olson with Fish and Game Subsistence Division. I'm the
16 deputy director.
17
18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Good morning.
19
20 MR. RINALDI: Good morning. My name is
21 Todd Rinaldi. I'm with the Alaska Department of Fish
22 and Game, and I'm the Region 4 management coordinator
23 out of Palmer.
24
25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Good morning and
26 welcome.
27
28 MS. STICKMAN: Good morning, everyone.
29 My name is Danielle Stickman, and I'm with the Yukon
30 River Drainage Fisheries Association. Good morning and
31 thank you.
32
33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Good morning,
34 Danielle.
35
36 MS. ROGERS: Good morning. Alissa
37 Rogers (in Yup'ik).
38
39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Good morning Alissa.
40 Anyone else.
41
42 MR. ANDREW: Good morning. Timothy
43 Andrew, ONC, Bethel.
44
45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Good to see you back.
46
47 MS. HENRY: Mr. Chair and members of
48 the Council. I'm Susanna Henry. I'm the refuge
49 manager at Togiak National Wildlife Refuge.
50

1 REPORTER: Susanna, you need to turn on
2 the microphone.
3
4 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Good morning.
5
6 MS. HENRY: I turned it off and back
7 on.
8
9 REPORTER: You didn't turn it on.
10
11 MS. HENRY: All right. Susanna Henry,
12 refuge manager at Togiak National Wildlife Refuge in
13 Dillingham. Good morning, everyone.
14
15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Welcome. Welcome.
16
17 MR. KRON: Good morning, Mr. Chair.
18 Tom Kron, OSM.
19
20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Good morning, Mr.
21 Kron.
22
23 MS. KENNER: My name is Pippa Kenner,
24 and I'm an anthropologist with the Office of
25 Subsistence Management in Anchorage.
26
27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Good morning, Pippa.
28
29 MR. SAMSON: Good morning, Mr.
30 Chairman. Pat Samson, translator for your services.
31 Thank you.
32
33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Good morning. Thank
34 you.
35
36 MR. NICHOLAI: (In Yup'ik)
37
38 INTERPRETER: My name is David and I'm
39 from Atmautluak, and I'm a translator for you. Thank
40 you.
41
42 MR. NICHOLAI: Good morning.
43
44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Good morning. Quyana.
45 Anyone else. Pippa?
46
47 MS. KENNER: I'm just going to turn it
48 off.
49
50

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Is everybody
2 introduced now and we all know who each other are,
3 right. And from the Council, we'll start from our
4 coordinator on the end there.

5
6 MS. PATTON: Good morning. Eva Patton,
7 Council coordinator for the Y-K Delta Subsistence
8 Regional Advisory Council.

9
10 And maybe if I can just make a quick
11 announcement here. We do have two simultaneous Yup'ik
12 translators, Pat Samson and David NICHOLAI. Up at the
13 front you'll headsets and a receiver. And I think
14 we're on channel 1. And so that way you can listen to
15 both the Yup'ik translation during the meeting.

16
17 And I just wanted to remind everyone,
18 if you could please sign in.

19
20 And welcome. And really wonderful to
21 be here with the Council today. Thank you.

22
23 MR. BILL: My name is David Bill,
24 Senior from Toksook, in Yup'ik) Toksook.

25
26 MR. ANDREW: My name is John W. Andrew
27 from Kwethluk. Quayana.

28
29 MR. ALOYSIUS: (In Yup'ik) My name is
30 Bob Aloysius. That's my paper name. I'm from Kalskag.
31 Thank you.

32
33 MS. CLEVELAND: Annie Cleveland from
34 Quinhagak.

35
36 MR. BROWN: I'm Charlie Brown, Eek.

37
38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I'm Lester Wilde from
39 Hooper Bay.

40
41 MR. ULAK: Anthony Ulak, Scammon Bay.

42
43 MR. ONEY: Ray Oney, Alakanuk.

44
45 MR. PETERS: Michael Peters, Marshall.

46
47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: And the young lady on
48 the end.

49
50

1 MS. HILE: My name is Tina, and I'm the
2 court reporter for the Council.

3
4 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Tina.

5
6 We are going down with following
7 agenda. For you the agenda is as follows.

8
9 MS. HILE: Lester. Lester.

10
11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes, ma'am.

12
13 MS. HILE: There's people on the phone
14 if you want to.....

15
16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Oh, I'm sorry. Is
17 there anyone out in the phone land that we have not
18 introduced. You're welcome.....

19
20 MR. SMITH: Yes, this is Dale
21 Smith.....

22
23 CHAIRMAN WILDE:and can we have
24 your names, anyone out in the phone land.

25
26 MR. SMITH: Yes. Good morning. This
27 is Dale in Mekoryuk.

28
29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Good morning, Dale.
30 Anyone else.

31
32 MS. DEBENHAM: Good morning. This is
33 Rosalie Debenham, fish and wildlife biologist for the
34 Bureau of Indian Affairs.

35
36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Good morning. Any one
37 else.

38
39 MS. DAMBERG: This is Carol Damberg.
40 I'm with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, regional
41 subsistence coordinator in Anchorage.

42
43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Good morning, and
44 welcome. Anyone else.

45
46 MR. SHARP: Yeah. Good morning. This
47 is Dan Sharp with Bureau of Land Management in
48 Anchorage.

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Good morning.

2

3 MR. ESTENSEN: Good morning, Mr. Chair.
4 My name is Jeff Estensen. I'm with the Alaska
5 Department of Fish and Game, fall season manager for
6 the Yukon here in Fairbanks.

7

8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Good morning. Anyone
9 else.

10

11 MR. BURCH: Mark Burch, Department of
12 Fish and Game, Division of Wildlife Conservation in
13 Palmer.

14

15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Good morning. Anyone
16 else.

17

18 MS. CARROLL: Molly Carroll, Yukon
19 River summer season area manager here in Anchorage.

20

21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Good morning. Is
22 there anyone else.

23

24 MR. JOHNSON: Good morning, Mr. Chair.
25 Carl Johnson, Council Coordination Division chief in
26 the Office of Subsistence Management in Anchorage.

27

28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Good morning. Is
29 there anyone else.

30

31 MR. RUNFOLA: David Runfola, Alaska
32 Department of Fish and Game, Subsistence Division,
33 calling in from Fairbanks.

34

35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Good morning. Anyone
36 else.

37

38 MR. DECOSSAS: Gary Decossas with the
39 Office of Subsistence Management.

40

41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Good morning. Is
42 there anyone else.

43

44 (No comments)

45

46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If there isn't anyone
47 else, we'll go over the agenda, and the agenda is as
48 follows:

49

50

1 Item 6, review and approve previous
2 minutes.

3
4 Item 7, our reports. And during that
5 time we'll have a remembrance and a moment of silence
6 for our vice chair that we lost, Greg Roczicka. And
7 then we'll have Council member reports, the Chair
8 reports.

9
10 And item 8, we'll have service awards
11 for Mr. Bill, David Bill, for five years of service
12 with the Council; also James Charles I think might be
13 in later on. He's going to get his 20-year service.

14
15 Public and tribal comments on non-
16 agenda items are available each morning.

17
18 And then item 10 is old business.

19
20 Item 11, under new business, we'll have
21 -- I'm sorry, item 10, under item 10, old business, is
22 Kuskokwim Partnership Project, status update. That'll
23 be done by Carol.

24
25 And under new business, we'll have wild
26 par -- wild chair -- let me check this out again.
27 Wildlife proposals. Note, all proposals' analyses
28 provided as supplemental materials. And the regional
29 proposals are as follows:

30
31 WP18-27, establish customary and
32 traditional use determination for musk ox in Unit 18
33 for residents of Nunivak Island.

34
35 WP18-28, addition of winter may-be-
36 announced season for moose in Unit 18, Goodnews Bay.

37
38 WP27 [sic], lengthen moose season by
39 one month in Unit 18 remainder.

40
41 And Unit 18-30, shorten season and
42 decrease harvest limit and possession limit for
43 ptarmigan in Unit 18.

44
45 WP-31 is shorten caribou season in
46 portions of Unit 18 by 15 days.

47
48 We have the following crossover
49 proposals:

50

1 WP18-21, change harvest limit to two
2 caribou throughout Mulchatna Caribou Herd range and
3 consolidate hunt.
4

5 WP18-23, add residents of Unit 9C and
6 9E to customary and traditional use determination for
7 caribou in Unit 17A and 17C.
8

9 WP18-25 and 26, establish a new hunt
10 area and may-be-announced season for moose in Unit 17C.
11

12 Unit 18-33 and 36, shorten season to
13 align with State and require state registration permit
14 for moose in Unit 21E. Moose in unit 18 -- 21E, I'm
15 sorry.
16

17 Statewide proposals are as follows:
18

19 18-51, modify bear baiting restrictions
20 to align with State regulations.
21

22 Discussion on regional proposals with
23 no customary and traditional use determination.
24

25 And item B, 2018 Fisheries Resource
26 Monitoring Program.
27

28 C, identify issues for FY 2017 annual
29 report.
30

31 D, revised delegation of authority
32 letter for Kuskokwim in-season manager. And that's
33 with OSM Fisheries.
34

35 Item 12, agency reports. Tribal
36 governments will be Orutsararmiut Native Council,
37 Native Village of Napaimute. ANSEP students.
38

39 And the Native organizations:
40 Association of Village Council Presidents, Kuskokwim
41 River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission.
42

43 Special action items will be (a)
44 Kuskokwim fisheries special actions: temporary special
45 actions FSA17-03 and FSA17-04. Temporary special
46 action FSA17-5.
47

48 And item (b), Kuskokwim fisheries in-
49 season management actions.
50

1 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Under
2 that will be item A, Yukon Delta National Wildlife
3 Refuge. Item B, Togiak National Wildlife Refuge. Item
4 C, Western Alaska Landscape Conservation Cooperative.
5 Item D, Yukon salmon season overview, joint U.S. Fish
6 and Wildlife and ADF&G presentation.

7
8 YRDFA will report YK-Delta, Western
9 Interior, and Eastern Interior Regional Advisory
10 Councils, Fall of 2017.

11
12 Under BLM we have BLM reply letter to
13 YK RAC letter in support of Native Village of Marshall
14 Traditional Council and Ohagamiut Traditional Council
15 ACEC nomination.

16
17 And future meeting dates on 13. We're
18 to -- I'm sorry, going back onto 13, future meeting
19 dates. Confirm winter 2018 meeting date and location.
20 Also select fall 2018 meeting date and location.

21
22 14 is closing comments.

23
24 15 is adjourn.

25
26 Are there any additions or deletions to
27 the agenda as read.

28
29 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. As
30 we had discussed with our Chair, Lester Wilde, Senior,
31 we have a couple ANSEP students, Alaska Native Science
32 and Engineering students, that will be joining us later
33 today. And given that it's a full agenda and they have
34 some training that they're doing during the day, we had
35 asked if they could present to the Council starting at
36 about 5:00 o'clock. And so we would have a joint
37 presentation from both Orutsararmut Native Council and
38 Native Village of Napaimute and the ANSEP students, and
39 they have some video and PowerPoint presentations. So
40 it would make today a little bit long, but we would end
41 the day with really wonderful joyful presentations from
42 those students.

43
44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other. Yes, Ms.
45 Pippa.

46
47 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
48 This is Pippa Kenner with OSM.

1 I was wondering if I can get on your
2 agenda, too. I had had a chance to talk to Eva, but I
3 hadn't had a chance to talk to you, the Chair, yet.
4 Under old business, before the Kuskokwim Partnership
5 Project presentation, I was wondering if I could
6 respond very quickly to the letter that the Council
7 sent after the last Council meeting to the Federal
8 Subsistence Board. And it concerned the Kuskokwim
9 Inter-Tribal Fish Committee -- Commission.

10
11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes, you may.

12
13 MS. KENNER: Thank you.

14
15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: At this time we'll --
16 are there any additions to or deletions to agenda as
17 read.

18
19 MS. CARROLL: Mr. Chair. This is Holly
20 Carroll with Fish and Game summer season area manager.

21
22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes, go ahead.

23
24 MS. CARROLL: I just wanted to let the
25 Council know that I would be available for any
26 questions when they're discussion the FRMP list of
27 projects under 11(b). If they have any questions about
28 how we use those projects for management of summer chum
29 or Chinook, I'm happy to answer those questions.

30
31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay.

32
33 MR. ESTENSEN: And, Mr. Chair, this is
34 Jeff Estensen with the Alaska Department of Fish and
35 Game, fall season manager. Likewise I'm available as
36 well.

37
38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Any other items
39 on the agenda that need to be added on or deleted.

40
41 (No comments)

42
43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If not, we will get
44 right into our agenda. Review and approve previous
45 minutes. Any discussion from the Council. Mr.
46 Aloysius.

47
48 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman. I move
49 that we adopt the agenda.

50

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: As written? Agenda as
2 written?
3
4 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yes.
5
6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The motion's been made
7 to adopt the agenda as written and corrected.
8
9 MR. ULAK: Second.
10
11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Seconded by.....
12
13 MR. ULAK: Anthony.
14
15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Anthony Ulak. Any
16 further discussion.
17
18 MR. ULAK: Question.
19
20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Question called for.
21 All in favor say aye.
22
23 IN UNISON: Aye.
24
25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: All opposed same sign.
26
27 (No opposing votes)
28
29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion's carried. We
30 are down to item six, review and approve previous
31 minutes. Council.
32
33 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
34 You'll find your meeting minutes on Page 5 of your
35 meeting books. And if there's any omissions or
36 corrections, particularly spelling corrections that you
37 see, please let me know.
38
39 Thank you.
40
41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Approve previous
42 minutes. Council.
43
44 MR. ULAK: Mr. Chairman. Anthony Ulak.
45 I move to adopt the previous meetings of February 15-
46 16, 2017.
47
48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion's been made to
49 approve the previous minutes by Mr. Anthony Ulak. Any
50

1 further discussion.

2

3

MS. CLEVELAND: Second.

4

5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Question's called for.
6 Did you have a question did you say? Oh.

7

8 Question's called for. All in favor of
9 the motion say aye.

10

11

IN UNISON: Aye.

12

13

14

CHAIRMAN WILDE: All the same sign that
oppose.

15

16

(No opposing votes)

17

18

19

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21

22

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion's carried. We
are down to item No. 7 on our reports. At this time
can we all stand a moment and for a moment of silence
for our lost friend and vice chair, Mr. Greg Roczicka.
For a moment of silence, please.

23

24

(Moment of silence for Greg Roczicka)

25

26

27

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Are there
any Council member reports.

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MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. I
just wanted to offer an opportunity, too, if any
Council members wanted to speak to the recognition or
memory of Greg Roczicka. And then if we could to move
into full Council member reports so that we hear from
each community and region how subsistence is for you
and your communities. So if the Council would like to
have an opportunity for each Council member to share
from their community.

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39

40

CHAIRMAN WILDE: I couldn't quite hear
you.

41

42

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47

MS. PATTON: If we could, to have an
opportunity for each Council member to share from their
community the reports on any subsistence issues or
observations from each community represented here by
the Council would be very helpful for the Council
member reports.

48

49

50

That's a really important part of the

1 Council's meeting.

2

3

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Mr. Bill.

4

5

MR. BILL: None at this time.

6

7

8

CHAIRMAN WILDE: None. Do you have any reports, Mr. Andrew.

9

10

MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

11

I have a few.

12

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Just like last year it's been getting harder and harder for us to do subsistence salmon fishing. We did not go out after any type of salmon in May and all the way to latter part of June. We only had three openings in my area or close-by area for salmon. We were targeting only chums and reds and a few people had instead of catch Chinook, because we were using five and a half-inch or less, 25 fathoms by the Y. And some people did not get to meet their subsistence needs on their salmon. They've got to -- some individuals did well and they shared with at least -- somewhere between on the average three to four households per fisher that have boat and get to go out with. And the salmon came in very, very late this summer. Everything was late this summer as far as salmon that come up the river. And even myself, I was having trouble catching salmon. I only kept roughly between 25 and 30 for my own family and I gave away most of whatever I get to my extended family members.

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But we did good on moose. During the moose season it was rainy half the time. I don't know what other areas that -- those are the two areas I can give report on because what we experienced this summer and early fall. Most of the hunters I've seen were doing good, because there were a lot of moose everywhere. On my first day personally I took along a little 10-year old. He shot a little small three-pointer, and we saw 14 or 15 cows and calves most of that day. We only saw one with antlers and it's the one my great grand nephew got. And we were pretty happy with that.

45

46

47

48

49

50

Quyana.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr. Andrew.

1 Mr. Aloysius.

2
3 MR. ALOYSIUS: We didn't have any
4 problem fishing. Those that went out to get fish got
5 fish. Those that stayed home and grumbled caught none.
6 The same story year after year. If you're going to
7 catch fish, you go out after it. If you don't want
8 fish, stay home. You know, everybody seemed pretty
9 happy.

10
11 And as far as moose, there's lots of
12 moose. As soon as the season opened, they left the
13 area between Kalskag and Lower Kalskag, and never saw
14 them again until after the season. But whoever went
15 out moose hunting, even though the weather was really
16 bad most of the time, they got. And the first time I
17 ever experienced moose hunting at night. Went down
18 seven miles below Kalskag, and we idled up the slough,
19 and stopped at the head of it, and when it got dark, we
20 drifted down to the mouth. And it was really different
21 for me, and once we got out to the main river, then we
22 went home. And I had no problem going home, because I
23 knew all the landmarks and, you know, just by the shade
24 on the river I went home. And when we got to the
25 village, I said, where are we? And my across the door
26 neighbor -- I mean across the road neighbor turned the
27 spotlight on and we were heading right for the truck.
28 So, you know.

29
30 And most people are wondering where in
31 the heck did the regulations start on Unit 21E. It's
32 the same thing. There's a ridge goes behind Kalskag
33 from the highest hill, it goes north and then west.
34 And anything on the north side of that is going into
35 the Yukon and anything south of that is going to the
36 Kuskokwim. They asked me how can people let Kuskokwim
37 River drainage flow into the Yukon. It's a mystery to
38 me. And I wish that somebody in the mapping would take
39 care of that, and make sure it's on there the way it's
40 supposed to be. If you have any questions about it, go
41 to Kalskag and go up the trail, go up the Paimiut
42 trail, the portage. It's been there for over 500
43 years. When you get to the top of the ridge anything
44 goes -- anything that's on the north side goes to the
45 Yukon, anything on the south side goes to the
46 Kuskokwim. It's really easy to see. The markers go
47 right behind Kalskag for the 21E, which is not right.
48 And people are getting frustrated about that. We can't
49 even hunt in our own land. So anybody wants to go up
50

1 there and get it straightened up, I'll be there to
2 help, because it just doesn't make sense for somebody
3 from the outside to go up there and tell us where we
4 can hunt.

5
6 Thank you.

7
8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Bob.

9
10 Young lady, do you have any village
11 report.

12
13 MS. CLEVELAND: Yeah. Annie Cleveland.
14 There was a high number of moose in my area this
15 summer, like in June there was two moose crossing the
16 river right in front of the village. And another time
17 not too long after that there was two moose standing on
18 the bank watching the boats go by. There was one time
19 when I was riding my granddaughter, I thought I saw a
20 horse walking down in the middle of runway, Martin
21 Becca, or not their name, there was moose walking down
22 the runway. Good thing there was no plane landing.
23 Stop and look around. And that's the first time in my
24 life I've seen dunduks (ph) that close.

25
26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: And you thought it was
27 a horse?

28
29 MS. CLEVELAND: Yeah.

30
31 (Laughter)

32
33 MS. CLEVELAND: And there was lots of
34 fish swimming up Anaktuk River again this year, and
35 I've seen and heard people from across my village like
36 Kong, Tuntutuliak, from that area, coming to Quinhagak
37 to fish, and some from this area.

38
39 So that's my report.

40
41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Annie.

42
43 MS. CLEVELAND: Happy news.

44
45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thanks, Annie.

46
47 Mr. Brown, do you have anything on your
48 village subsistence.

49
50

1 MR. BROWN: (In Yup'ik)

2
3 INTERPRETER: First of all my name is
4 -- they call me Charlie Brown.

5
6 MR. BROWN: That's my Native name
7 anyway. (In Yup'ik)

8
9 INTERPRETER: That is my Native name
10 was Charlie Brown. And I thank you first, and it does
11 give me a good feeling regarding the moose population,
12 especially in my area, because we have been working
13 together with the Federal and State tribes and we --
14 because of the working together, there is no dissension
15 and everybody's working together, and so it's a pretty
16 good affair that we had this summer. And the
17 moratorium really helped wit the moose population and
18 we also see a lot of incidences of catches from the
19 grandchildren that have harvested moose, and that's
20 what we wanted in the first place when we wanted to go
21 after the moratorium. And so that does give me a
22 really good feeling to see the moose population
23 rebound, because of the joint effort between the State
24 and the Federal agencies and the tribes, because we sat
25 down and we have worked together and that really came
26 to fruition, and our work has really paid off with the
27 moratorium regarding the moose, and that really gives
28 me a good feeling. And so back in the day we used to
29 -- we were fighting amongst themselves, among agencies
30 and the tribes were against the Fish and Game, Fish and
31 Wildlife, and the other way around, too, but those are
32 the by-gone days. And since we have -- since the
33 agencies and the tribes have started working together,
34 it has really -- yeah, I'm really thankful for the
35 moose population increase in our area.

36
37 Also, in addition to that, the salmon
38 coming up to the river and we have also started working
39 together regarding the salmon swimming up the Kuskokwim
40 River, and that was a point of dissension also, but
41 since we have started approaching this issue together,
42 it is -- there isn't animosity any more between the
43 agencies, but there is working together. And my
44 village of Eek is also thankful for the point where --
45 below Helmet Point, that they are looking at the Helmet
46 Point bypass for salmon. And I've made several trips
47 up here to give a report on how many salmon are coming
48 up the Kuskokwim and up Eek River. And so I've been
49 keeping an eye on that whole river.

50

1 And I am thankful that they opened the
2 Eek River and the old river behind Eek Island, because
3 in my village we have a lot of high unemployment rate
4 and because of the unemployment rate, the price of gas
5 prevents a lot of people from going further out to go
6 catch salmon. But with the new regulations are helping
7 the Helmet Point fishery area, and I'm really thankful
8 that Fish and Game or Fish and Wildlife has opened,
9 giving us the opportunity to go out there and catch on
10 the main stem of the river. I guess back in the day
11 they used to close that Eek Island fishing area, but it
12 has been opened and I really want to thank the State
13 and the Federal and the tribes for working together and
14 opening that area for fishing.

15
16 Thank you.

17
18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr. Brown.
19 Mr. Ulak.

20
21 MR. ULAK: Scammon Bay subsistence and
22 commercial did pretty good. Most of the subsistence
23 users usually go up to Black River in Y-1 area to do
24 their subsistence catch. And likewise the commercial,
25 the opening was good. Harvesting belugas I think was
26 good, too, but one thing that maybe we'd like to see is
27 to limit the beluga whale catches during commercial
28 fishing, because the smell of the beluga whale, that's
29 what scares the salmon when they try to go in and do
30 their migrating up the Black River. That was the
31 concern from the elders I've heard before. So I think
32 we can do a lot more locally by distributing issues
33 like that to commercial fishermen.

34
35 Other than that, it's good to hear what
36 others were doing around here. I've seen one family
37 from here go to Scammon to do their subsistence
38 fishing, because of the abundance of salmon. Do.
39 Quyana.

40
41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Quyana. Mr. Oney.

42
43 MR. ONEY: Yes. Good morning. Thank
44 you, Mr. Chairman.

45
46 For the Lower Yukon, Alakanuk, I guess
47 it was a good year for both salmon for both the
48 subsistence and also for commercial fishermen all the
49 way through right from the beginning all the way to the
50

1 end, which is about maybe first week in September.

2

3 And overall, I guess moose hunting has
4 been successful for everyone, just about everyone on
5 the Yukon.

6

7 Other than that, I think just a good
8 year for everyone all over both for big game and also
9 for the salmon.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr. Oney.

14 Mr. Peters.

15

16 MR. PETERS: Now at Marshall and
17 subsistence with the salmon, you know, the people
18 caught a few salmon at the first run. And with the
19 commercial, they did pretty fair.

20

21 And also, you know, I would like to
22 thank Marshall Tribal Council and Ohagamiut for their
23 support on being very conservative for the salmon, and
24 for the subsistence need of the people, and also for
25 the commercial fishermen.

26

27 And, you know, just like on moose
28 season, what I've been hearing about now with the rainy
29 season, you know, it rained quite a bit, and what some
30 people were happy of what they got.

31

32 And that's all I have to report for
33 now. Thank you.

34

35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr. Peters.

36

37 And in Hooper Bay we had a good season
38 also. It seemed like there's a lot more moose nowadays
39 than there ever was. This is the first time in a long
40 time we've had moose walking right through the streets
41 of Hooper Bay going across towards Askinuk Mountain, so
42 we sighted about 10 moose coming through town in the
43 last year. And not only that, out in the fishing
44 areas, berry camps, there's moose out there, too, so
45 there's moose all over the place.

46

47 And the fish seem to be doing a lot
48 better than they've been in the past years, so we're
49 hoping for a better future.

50

1 And at this time I think we also wrote
2 a letter on behalf of the Council, and Ms. Patton,
3 could you read that letter we wrote on behalf of the
4 Council to the -- you know who.

5
6 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair, are you
7 referring to the emperor.....

8
9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The one we just got,
10 yeah.

11
12 MS. PATTON:the emperor good
13 letter?

14
15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah. Would you read
16 that, please.

17
18 MS. PATTON: Sure. I'd be happy to.
19 Just one moment, please, I'll get the letter.

20
21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: That was written on
22 behalf of the Council to the refuge managers.

23
24 Yes, Mr. Aloysius.

25
26 MR. ALOYSIUS: Who wrote a letter on
27 behalf of the Council?

28
29 MR. WILDE: We did.

30
31 MR. ALOYSIUS: Who's we?

32
33 MR. WILDE: We, Lester Wilde, and Ms.
34 Patton on behalf of the Council.

35
36 MS. PATTON: And, Mr. Chair and
37 Council.....

38
39 MR. WILDE: And this is a -- Robert, if
40 you'll listen to it, you'll understand it. You'll know
41 what it's for.

42
43 Go ahead, Ms. Patton.

44
45 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
46 This was discussion that the Council had at the winter
47 meeting in February, and the Council had appreciated
48 the efforts on the emperor goose recovery and support
49 for hunting and egging opportunity. Hunting for

50

1 emperor geese and an eggling opportunity for black
2 brant. And that letter was just approved by Lester
3 Wilde, so we have copies for you since it just got
4 approved this weekend, and I will read the letter as
5 well.

6
7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: While Eva's looking
8 that up, I just came back from Fairbanks where we're
9 re-doing the comprehensive salmon plan for the Yukon
10 River. And everything seems to be going well. We're
11 down to -- we're just about finished with the book. So
12 it should be going out to the public within the next
13 year or so. So everything's pretty much the same
14 except for new facts that we've gotten over the years.
15 The last one was written some years back by YRDFA
16 membership. So that's going to be coming out within
17 the next year or so, the comprehensive salmon study for
18 the Yukon River.

19
20 Go ahead, Ms. Patton.

21
22 MS. PATTON: Okay. Mr. Chair and
23 Council. So this was directed to the Refuge manager.
24 Again at the winter meeting the Council was
25 appreciative of the opportunity for an emperor good
26 hunt this summer and fall. And they addressed a letter
27 to the Refuge manager on behalf of the Yukon-Kuskokwim
28 Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory Council.

29
30 Dear Mr. Stahlnecker.....

31
32 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Can't hear you.

33
34 MS. PATTON: Sorry. I'm going to move
35 this a little closer here. Is that a little better?

36
37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: That's a lot better.
38 Thank you.

39
40 MS. PATTON: Writing on behalf of the
41 Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory
42 Council to provide a letter of support. The Yukon
43 Delta National Wildlife Refuge works towards recovery
44 of the emperor goose in efforts to allow for
45 subsistence hunt opportunity now that the population
46 has recovered. And the Council notes its primary duty
47 is within subsistence for the region for fish and
48 wildlife. And while the Council does not have direct
49 jurisdiction over migratory birds, it's a very

50

1 important part of the subsistence way of life on the
2 Yukon-Kuskokwim delta, and the Council appreciates the
3 opportunity to review information and make
4 recommendations on subsistence management issues
5 related to waterfowl in the region.
6

7 So at the Council's public meeting held
8 in February 15 and 16th, Ray Born, the deputy manager
9 for the Yukon Delta Refuge, had provided the Council
10 with an overview of the emperor goose management plan
11 and proposed regulations that would allow for a limited
12 hunt of emperor geese for the first time since the 1987
13 closure. Mr. Born also reported to the Council that
14 harvesting of black brant eggs was proposed to be
15 allowed again since the black brant population had
16 rebounded enough to sustain a limited level of eggging.
17

18 The Council discussed their
19 observations of migration and behavior and the
20 relationship to snow cover. Council Member David Bill
21 of Toksook Bay noted that if there is high water on the
22 Delta coastline, it makes the nesting area muddy, and
23 so the geese will come further inland to lay their
24 eggs. And Council Member Raymond Oney of Alakanuk
25 noted that while they had not seen emperor geese for
26 some time around his village, they were beginning to
27 show up around the community in recent years.
28

29 Council members reported that people in
30 the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta were seeing more emperor
31 geese and were very supportive of the reopening of the
32 emperor goose hunt and harvest of black brant eggs.
33 The Council concurs that this is a very important
34 opportunity to once again harvest these traditional
35 subsistence resources. The Council voted unanimously
36 to support the Yukon Delta Wildlife Refuge in its work
37 on recovery of the emperor geese and black brant, in
38 support of the Refuge to be able to resume a
39 sustainable level of harvest on these important
40 subsistence resources.
41

42 Thank you for your consideration and
43 support for subsistence communities across the Yukon-
44 Kuskokwim Delta. And the Council appreciates all the
45 work the Refuge is engaged in to provide for
46 subsistence opportunity.
47

48 So the Council had looked forward to
49 continuing discussions about the Alaska Migratory Bird
50

1 Co-Management Council and Pacific Flyway Council
2 Emperor Goose Management Plans and future hunt and
3 egging opportunities.
4

5 And Mr. Stahlnecker does have during
6 the Refuge report some of the waterfowl updates for the
7 Council, too, that will come under Refuge reports.
8

9 Thank you.
10

11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Ms. Patton.
12 Are there any questions for the Council or Chair's
13 reports from anyone out there. Yes, sir.
14

15 MR. HARPER: Yeah. Ken Harper.....
16

17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Could you please come
18 up here to the mic, please.
19

20 MR. HARPER: Ken Harper, Fish and
21 Wildlife Service, Kenai fishery office. We're a
22 research branch for the Fish and Wildlife Service doing
23 work here on the Kenai.
24

25 And I guess the question I had for the
26 Council members, in your villages have you seen a lot
27 of sores on fish this summer, and people that have
28 caught them. We've noted some at our weirs, sores on
29 fish, so I was just wondering if people noted that in
30 their subsistence harvests.
31

32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There was some that
33 was noted out in Hooper Bay that were coming in, that
34 there was some lesions on some of the fish that were
35 coming in. Black spots.
36

37 MR. HARPER: Uh-huh.
38

39 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yeah. We didn't see any
40 sores on the outside, but on the inside there was maybe
41 5 out of 40 chums that were just crawling with some
42 kind of worms inside the meat.
43

44 MR. HARPER: Okay. I just wanted to
45 get observation from people. Yes.
46

47 MR. ANDREW: Mr. Chairman. Mr. Harper.
48 I've caught a few mostly on reds and chums that had
49 sores on their bodies. Their intestines were sticking
50

1 to the walls of the belly. If they were pretty badly
2 -- it's got too many sores on them, I cook -- give them
3 to dog mushers to cook them for dog food.

4
5 Thank you.

6
7 MR. HARPER: Thank you, John.

8
9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other observations
10 from your salmon harvest this summer by any Council
11 members? Go ahead, Annie.

12
13 MS. CLEVELAND: Last year I reported
14 that there was some dead fish.....

15
16 REPORTER: Annie.

17
18 MS. CLEVELAND: Last year I reported
19 that there was some dead fish floating down Kanektok on
20 the river. And there was a report, too, from Goodnews
21 that time about fish with sores all over and one had a
22 big hump on the side, and she opened that hump and a
23 lot of puss came of it. But this year I haven't heard
24 anything report like that.

25
26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Mr. Brown,
27 do you have any observations of your subsistence this
28 year?

29
30 MR. BROWN: (In Yup'ik)

31
32 INTERPRETER: I'm going to ask in
33 Yup'ik.

34
35 MR. BROWN: One time a few years back,
36 5, 10 years, it will only be.....

37
38 INTERPRETER: Within the 5, 10 years
39 when Japanese had their earthquake, there was a lot of
40 -- a lot of poison that went into the ocean. We've
41 heard it on the network news, and I seen it on the
42 news, too. Is that polluted water coming towards
43 Alaska; that's my question.

44
45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Well, did you
46 understand it yet?

47
48 MR. HARPER: No, I didn't. I was
49 trying to listen over here, and I didn't have my.....

50

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: He asked you if there
2 might have been any contamination from the Japanese
3 radiation into the water that might be affecting the
4 salmon in our area.

5
6 MR. HARPER: Mr. Chair. I have no
7 knowledge that that has occurred. The reason I asked
8 is at our Tuluksak weir this year we have a very high
9 incidence of sockeye salmon with sores on them. You
10 know, we're looking at them either in our sampling or
11 through our video, we can see lots of sores on these
12 fish, and I was just wondering -- we had heard a report
13 from Tuluksak that there were fish in the village
14 caught with sores, and I just wondered if there was
15 more of widespread issue that we need to be aware of.

16
17 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

18
19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah. Stay just a
20 minute. Mr. Flood, I forgot you were on the
21 teleconference. Do you have any comments on your
22 subsistence for this last summer. Mr. Flood, are you
23 still on teleconference?

24
25 (No comments)

26
27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I guess not.

28
29 MS. PATTON: Let me check.

30
31 Dale Smith, are you on still?

32
33 MR. SMITH: Yes, I am.

34
35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Oh, Mr. Smith, I'm
36 sorry.

37
38 MR. SMITH: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chair.
39 Yeah, real quickly, real briefly, we had seen an
40 abundance of chum salmon for our -- since fish camps
41 out on the island. In terms of seeing any lesions or
42 abnormal, we did not see any for those.

43
44 We had a fairly mild winter, so we
45 barely had any snow over the winter. The snow melted
46 really early. We had early breakup. We barely had any
47 salmonberry or blackberry to harvest.

48
49 I did notice -- about 20, 25 north of
50

1 Nunivak Island we have a work site that we are logged
2 onto called the Marine Exchange of Alaska. And I check
3 that weekly to see activity around the island, and I
4 noticed that there was a Japanese ship called the
5 Ushimoo (ph) Number 2. I'm not sure if anybody's
6 familiar with that Japanese ship, but over the years
7 it's been documented that it's been harvesting whales
8 at the south pole. So I contacted the Coast Guard, and
9 the Coast Guard mentioned that they're registered as a
10 research vessel. So I left it at that. But just to let
11 you know, there was sighting of this particular vessel
12 north of the island here, and that raised a red flag
13 for me considering that it's been documented that had
14 been harvesting whales down south. So I just thought
15 I'd share that.

16
17 Other than that, as I mentioned
18 earlier, we had a fast breakup, spring breakup, and
19 we've noticed a continued scarcity of our main staple
20 seal, bearded seal, but we're able to harvest at least
21 one for individuals, households that go and harvest.
22 Some of the men were able to harvest walrus as well,
23 but we're continuing to see a rapid breakup every year
24 now.

25
26 So other than that, that's all I have.

27
28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr. Smith.

29
30 Any other Council members out there.

31
32 MR. BILL: Mr. Chair.

33
34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes, just a minute.
35 There being none, yes, Mr. Bill.

36
37 MR. BILL: Yeah.

38
39 INTERPRETER: I'm going to speak in
40 Yup'ik. Can you put on a translation equipment.

41
42 The salmon in Nelson area, they're not
43 like how they were supposed to. Some of them have
44 marked. Some of them have puss along the side of their
45 skin. There's puss. They're marked. It seems like
46 they're cut open. We're starting to catch fish that
47 have those marks. All of this that are traveling or
48 going to their migrations, they're not the same any
49 more. We all know that sockeye, they used to get to
50

1 Nelson Island, but the humpies come there, but not in
2 abundance. And then sockeyes come in at the same time.
3 And then after that the kings start coming with those
4 other species. That's kind of confusing to us.

5
6 Some of our people used to say those
7 big ships that -- those tend companies, that we don't
8 know how many ships they have, and we think that they
9 have impacted our fish. We really don't know, but you
10 have scientists that do studies. I think we need to
11 get scientists involved with the study. They're not in
12 the deep ocean, they're in the shallower part of the
13 ocean. They say that those have no impact on our fish,
14 but we all know that it never used to be like that.
15 There hardly was any ships. After 1990s they started
16 coming in hunting yellow-fin fish. They're trawlers
17 and they scrape the bottom of the sea. Please take a
18 look at that. Please take a look at the species and
19 what are going on them. We need to find out.

20
21 And some of our catches, when they have
22 something on them, we don't take care of them. We feed
23 it to the dog.

24
25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Anyone else for the
26 summer subsistence.

27
28 Mr. Brown.

29
30 MR. BROWN: Regarding the fish stock
31 that if we do a research on where the lesions are
32 coming from, you could probably do a study and find out
33 where these lesions are coming in from. And with that
34 finding you could get a new -- figure out a way to help
35 or lessen the lesions or the puss that are showing up
36 in the salmon. So if that's research going on, that
37 will be good.

38
39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I think at this time
40 take a 10-minute break.

41
42 (Off record)

43
44 (On record)

45
46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Since one of our
47 Council members are not here yet, and we expect him
48 later on this afternoon, our service awards will be --
49 we'll hold that off. We'll suspend the rules until

50

1 such time that Mr. Charles gets here. And we will go
2 on down to item 9.

3
4 Is there any public comments on non-
5 agenda items.

6
7 Anyone from the public would like to
8 address the Council from the audience here.

9
10 (No comments)

11
12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If not is there anyone
13 on the teleconference that would like to address the
14 Council.

15
16 (No comments)

17
18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If not, then we will
19 go on down to -- yes, Ms. Pippa. Old business.

20
21 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair, all
22 members of the Council. My name is Pippa Kenner, and
23 I'm an anthropologist at the Office of Subsistence
24 management in Anchorage. And I asked to be put on your
25 agenda today, because the Council wrote a letter to
26 Greg Siekaniec, the regional director of the U.S. Fish
27 and Wildlife Service in Alaska and to Anthony
28 Christianson, the Chair of the Federal Subsistence
29 Board. To describe to you what the letter was, I'm
30 here to respond to the letter.

31
32 So at the Council's public meeting held
33 in Bethel on February 15th and 16th, 2017 the Council
34 received an update on the status of implementation of
35 the Kuskokwim River Partnership Project. The Council
36 was concerned that development of a joint Regional
37 Advisory Council subcommittee structure had not been
38 advanced, and this subcommittee would have provided for
39 interactions of Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta and Western
40 Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils
41 with the management of subsistence fisheries on the
42 Kuskokwim River. That's on the second page of the
43 letter describing what the request is.

44
45 And I'm here to tell you that the
46 structure of the subcommittee of the Councils is being
47 discussed. There are meetings being held, and it is
48 moving forward.

49
50

1 The second request was the Council was
2 also interested to see revisions to the 2002 delegation
3 of authority letter that would allow for the Yukon
4 Delta National Wildlife Refuge manager to have more
5 flexibility and involvement in in-season subsistence
6 fisheries management consistent with the provisions of
7 the memorandum of understanding between the U.S. Fish
8 and Wildlife Service and the Kuskokwim River Inter-
9 Tribal Fish Commission. That letter of delegation has
10 been redrafted and it will be presented to you today
11 under new business and you'll have a chance to review
12 it.

13
14 That's the end of my response, Mr.
15 Chair.

16
17 Thank you.

18
19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any questions for
20 Pippa on the Yukon -- on the Kuskokwim Partnership
21 Project.

22
23 (No comments)

24
25 MS. KENNER: Mr. Chair.

26
27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes, Pippa.

28
29 MS. KENNER: The next presentation is
30 going to be from Carol Damberg who is working with
31 people to work on the partnership project, and she
32 would be better able to answer your questions about the
33 partnership project.

34
35 Thank you.

36
37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: And the young lady is
38 -- who was that now?

39
40 MS. KENNER: The next thing on
41 your.....

42
43 MS. DAMBERG: This is.....

44
45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes, go ahead.

46
47 MS. DAMBERG: I was going to say this
48 is Carol Damberg, through the Chair. I'm on the phone.

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes, go ahead, ma'am.

2

3 MS. DAMBERG: Yes. My name is Carol
4 Damberg. I'm in Anchorage with the U.S. Fish and
5 Wildlife Service.

6

7 And I was going to provide just a very
8 brief overview on the Kuskokwim Partnership
9 information. We had hoped to have information ready
10 for the RAC to review for this meeting, but that
11 information has not been fully drafted and ready for
12 review by the RAC. And so our goal is now to hopefully
13 have the partnership project information presented
14 during the winter meeting later.

15

16 I would say that the Yukon Delta Refuge
17 Staff, the Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, the State Game
18 and Fish, the Office of Subsistence Management, and
19 Federal members of the Kuskokwim Working Group are
20 continuing to meet to develop the draft framework for
21 the partnership project that we hope to provide to the
22 RAC at the next meeting. And I'd also like to say as
23 Pippa has mentioned, that the director of the Fish and
24 Wildlife Service, Greg Siekaniec, is very keen in
25 seeing a shared partnership formulated between these
26 groups that includes some of all the interests of the
27 Kusko, and leads to hopefully the very successful
28 conservation and management of the fisheries.

29

30 So we do not have anything as a
31 specific formal presentation at this point. The draft
32 information is not ready for review by the RAC.

33

34 That's all I have, Chair.

35

36 Thank you.

37

38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Any
39 questions for Carol or for Pippa, Council.

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There being none,
44 thank you very much, Pippa and Carol, for your report.

45

46 We are down to new business, item 11,
47 wildlife proposal anthropology WP18-27 for muskox in
48 Unit 18, residents of Nunivak Island muskox OSM
49 wildlife/anthropology. And our anthropologist is --

50

1 WP18-27, establish customary and traditional use
2 determination for muskox in Unit 18 for residents of
3 Nunivak Island. Pippa.

4
5 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And
6 thank you, Council members. My name is Pippa Kenner,
7 and I'm an anthropologist at the Office of Subsistence
8 Management in Anchorage. I'm happy to be here today.

9
10 Before I start, I'd like to see if Dale
11 Smith, the member from Mekoryuk is on the
12 teleconference right now.

13
14 MR. SMITH: Mr. Chair. Yes, I am.

15
16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes.

17
18 MS. KENNER: Thank you. The next thing
19 I'm going to explain is that this proposal deals with a
20 customary and traditional use determination. And just
21 to be clear, what that means, in the Federal
22 regulations there's generally two columns. One is a
23 list of communities and one is the seasons and harvest
24 limits. The list of communities are the people who are
25 eligible to hunt during those seasons.

26
27 So right now what we have is a request
28 from Mekoryuk, from -- excuse me. This request is from
29 the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory
30 Council. This Council. It requests the Board to
31 recognize the customary and traditional uses of
32 muskoxen on Nunivak Island in Unit 18 by residents of
33 Nunivak Island.

34
35 Federal regulations apply on Federal
36 public lands. And Federal public lands are
37 approximately 90 percent of Nunivak Island.

38
39 I'm going to pull back a minute and
40 just make sure that everybody has this analysis in
41 front of them. I just remembered it is not a regularly
42 numbered page in your book. It's a supplement. And
43 you'll find it in the very back of your book. And
44 because there aren't any tabs, it may take a minute for
45 you to find it. The materials in the supplement at the
46 back of your books are the analyses in order that they
47 would be presented. So this is likely the very first
48 page of your supplement.

49
50

1 As the Council probably already knows,
2 our wildlife cycle was pushed back this year because of
3 the new administration. And we had about half or a
4 third of the time we usually have to advertise in the
5 Federal Register and analyze proposals that we
6 received. Because of the need to get these book out to
7 you as soon as possible, at least a month before your
8 meeting, these analyses didn't make it into the book as
9 it was being produced and that's why they're a
10 supplement at the back of your book.

11
12 MR. ULAK: So, Mr. Chairman, the WP18-
13 27?

14
15 MS. KENNER: Thank you. That's
16 correct.

17
18 MR. ULAK: The proposal for that has
19 been done. That WP.....

20
21 MS. KENNER: Yeah, WP18-27 is the
22 number of the proposal.

23
24 MR. ULAK: Yes. So that proposals been
25 introduced. That introduction -- you're talking
26 introduction now, right?

27
28 MS. KENNER: Yes.

29
30 MR. ULAK: Okay.

31
32 MS. KENNER: Thank you for that
33 clarification.

34
35 Okay. So Proposal 18-27 was submitted
36 by the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional
37 Advisory Council, which is your Council, and it
38 requests the Federal Subsistence Board recognize the
39 customary and traditional uses of muskoxen on Nunivak
40 Island by residents of Nunivak Island. And again the
41 Federal public lands comprise about 90 percent of
42 Nunivak Island.

43
44 So at the beginning of the Federal
45 Subsistence Management Program in Alaska in 1992, most
46 existing State customary and traditional use
47 determinations were adopted into permanent Federal
48 regulations. At that time the State did not recognize
49 customary and traditional use of muskoxen on Nunivak

50

1 Island. And so the Board adopted a determination of no
2 subsistence priority.

3
4 The Board of Game has visited this
5 question recently. In January 2014 the Alaska Board of
6 Game considered, but did not adopt a customary and
7 traditional use determination for muskoxen in Units 18
8 and 19. The proposal, submitted by the Association of
9 Village Council Presidents, requested muskox
10 subsistence hunts in Units 18 and 19. The Board took
11 -- the Board of Game took no action. The Board of Game
12 determined that it will consider separate customary and
13 traditional use determinations for each of the three
14 areas of Unit 18: Nunivak Island, Nelson Island, and
15 then the remainder of Unit 18.

16
17 So I'm at community characteristics,
18 and just briefly, Yup'ik people self-recognize as
19 belonging to a number of confederations of villages,
20 and people living on Nunivak Island are Nuniwarmiut.
21 In 2010 the population of Mekoryuk, the only remaining
22 village on Nunivak Island, was 191 people.

23
24 Nunivak Islanders rely primarily on
25 marine resources, birds and eggs, and muskoxen for
26 subsistence. Few species of land mammals are present
27 on the island. Additionally, a herd of reindeer has
28 been actively managed on the island since the early
29 1900s. The herd is locally owned and managed. Nunivak
30 Islanders have participated in local commercial herring
31 and halibut fisheries. Bull hunters on Nunivak Island
32 usually hunt with guides or transporters.

33
34 Muskoxen lived in Alaska until about
35 the 1860s. In an effort to reestablish muskoxen in
36 Alaska, the Federal Government brought 31 muskoxen to
37 Nunivak Island in 1935 and 36. Hunting was not
38 permitted until fall 1975 when the Alaska Department of
39 Fish and Game established a fall and winter hunting
40 season.

41
42 So the Board makes customary and
43 traditional use determinations based on a holistic
44 application of eight factors. And the eight factors
45 are located underneath the heading eight factors for
46 determining customary and traditional use. So the
47 following is going to be a discussion responding to
48 those eight factors.

49
50

1 The Board takes into consideration the
2 reports and recommendations of any appropriate Regional
3 Advisory Council regarding customary and traditional
4 use of subsistence resources. The Board makes
5 customary and traditional use determinations for the
6 sole purpose of recognizing and identifying the pool of
7 users who generally exhibit the eight factors. The
8 Board does not use such determinations for resource
9 management or for restricting harvest. If a
10 conservation concern exists for a particular population
11 of fish and wildlife, in this case muskoxen, the Board
12 addresses that concern through the imposition of
13 harvest limits, season restrictions or a Section .804
14 subsistence user prioritization rather than through
15 adjustments to customary and traditional use
16 determinations.

17
18 Hiroko Ikuta and Jeff Park while
19 working for the State Division of Subsistence conducted
20 interviews with residents of Nunivak Island in 2013,
21 and they put this information into a customary and
22 traditional use determination worksheet for muskoxen.
23 And I've used that information here to describe the use
24 of muskoxen by Nunivak Islanders.

25
26 Although muskoxen are an introduced
27 species in Unit 18, local people utilize and
28 incorporate them into the seasonal round of hunting
29 activities and distribution and exchange networks.
30 Subsistence fishing and hunting are central to the
31 culture, tradition, and economy on Nunivak Island.

32
33 Nunivak Islanders prefer winter over
34 fall for muskox hunting due to the quality of the meat
35 and the easier access to the animals by snowmachine. A
36 hunter on Nunivak Island said the meat is less fatty,
37 more lean than during the fall hunt. In addition,
38 muskoxen harvested in winter provide local diets a
39 taste of fresh meat which is a break from the dried or
40 frozen stored food used within households. Nunivakers
41 have stated that muskoxen are a valuable addition to
42 the local diet.

43
44 In addition, in spring local women and
45 children harvest qiviut, the inner wool of muskoxen.
46 Every spring a muskox sheds from four to six pounds of
47 qiviut. Muskoxen have a two-layered coat and qiviut
48 refers specifically to the soft underwool beneath the
49 outer wool. While some women spin qiviut into yarn at
50

1 home, others send it to a co-op, the Oomingmak Musk Ox
2 Producers' Co-operative owned by approximately 250
3 Alaskan Native women. The co-op processes and
4 furnishes the yarn to co-op members, primarily on
5 Nelson and Nunivak Island communities to be knitted
6 into hats, scarves, and other products.

7
8 The Alaska Department of Fish and Game
9 maintains a harvest reporting database where muskox
10 hunters, using State registration or State drawing
11 permits, report their hunting efforts. But records
12 have not been kept up and are not complete in the
13 electronic database. However, electronic records do
14 exist and show that Nunivak Islanders have reported
15 harvest in all but four years since 1986 when
16 electronic records begin. This is a minimum estimated
17 average of 16 muskox harvested annually since 1986 by
18 Nunivak Islanders.

19
20 According to the Alaska Department of
21 Fish and Game, and based on records that are more
22 complete, Nunivak Islanders received an average of 23
23 muskoxen permits between 2003 and 2016. Since 2003
24 between five and 41 registration permits for the
25 harvest of one cow have been available to Nunivakers.
26 Most of these registration permits are distributed at
27 Mekoryuk and in most years a few are distributed at
28 Bethel. The annual harvest of muskoxen is primarily
29 influenced by the number of permits available, because
30 the majority of hunters are successful.

31
32 I'm now going to the effects of this
33 proposal if adopted. So if adopted, the proposal,
34 WP18-27, would recognize Nunivak Islanders' customary
35 and traditional uses of muskoxen on Nunivak Island.
36 Adopting the customary and traditional use
37 determination would have no immediate affect on
38 people's ability to harvest muskoxen. If it receives a
39 proposal, the Board can adopt muskoxen seasons and
40 harvest limits.

41
42 If not adopted, there would be no
43 effects to subsistence users, non-subsistence users, or
44 muskoxen.

45
46 In conclusion, the OSM preliminary
47 conclusion is to support the proposal. And I'm going
48 to follow with the justification.

49
50

1 Residents of Nunivak Island exemplify
2 customary and traditional uses of muskoxen on Nunivak
3 Island. Documented evidence and the harvest reporting
4 database and ethnographic accounts demonstrate this.
5 Nunivak Islanders have a consistent pattern of
6 harvesting local muskoxen since at least 1975 when Fish
7 and Game established fall and spring hunting seasons.
8 Ethnographic accounts further describe a heavy reliance
9 on muskox meat and qiviut used for the manufacture of
10 personal items and in customary trade. The use of
11 muskoxen by Nunivak Islanders is patterned. Most
12 hunters prefer to take muskoxen during the winter
13 hunting season due to the quality of the meat and
14 easier access over snow on the ground. Fresh meat is a
15 welcome respite from frozen and store-bought food.
16 Nunivak Islanders rely on a wide variety of wild foods
17 and have incorporated muskoxen into their seasonal
18 pattern of harvesting and use of wild resources.

19
20 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

21
22 I'm done with my presentation, and I'll
23 stay here. I'm available to answer questions.

24
25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Aloysius, you had
26 a question.

27
28 MR. ALOYSIUS: It was really hard to
29 follow, because you keep skipping around, deleting
30 this, deleting that. And I don't know if I heard it or
31 not, but one thing.....

32
33 MR. SMITH: Mr. Chair.

34
35 MR. ALOYSIUS:that seems to be
36 left is the use of the muskox wool. Any mention of
37 that in here?

38
39 MS. PATTON: I could hear your voice
40 on the phone. Is anybody out there?

41
42 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Aloysius.
43 Through the Chair. Yes, there is a section on the use
44 of qiviut, and I did mention it in my talking points.

45
46 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. It
47 sounds like Dale Smith was trying to get on. There may
48 have been a disconnection on teleconference. Are folks
49 able to hear us, those of you on teleconference.

50

1 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yes, we can now.

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Dale, are you out
4 there. Mr. Smith, do you have any comments.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Are there any other
9 comments, Council.

10

11 MS. KENNER: Mr. Aloysius, through the
12 Chair. The beginning of the discussion of the use of
13 qiviut begins on Page -- on the bottom of Page 6.

14

15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, Mr. Aloysius?

16

17 MR. SMITH: Hello, can anybody hear me?

18

19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes, we can hear you.
20 We've been trying to call you to get if you had any
21 comments. Do you have any comments, Mr. Smith?

22

23 MR. SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So I
24 have a question for Pippa. Can you explain again if
25 the Council passed this proposal here, what were the
26 effects again.

27

28 MS. KENNER: Thank you for that
29 question, Mr. Smith. Through the Chair.

30

31 The effects section of the analysis
32 begins on Page 9, at the bottom of the page, and it
33 simply says this. If adopted, Proposal WP18-27 would
34 recognize Nunivak Islanders' customary and traditional
35 uses of muskoxen on Nunivak Island. Adopting a
36 customary and tradition use determination would have no
37 immediate effect on people's ability to harvest
38 muskoxen. If it receives a proposal in the future, the
39 Federal Subsistence Board may adopt muskox seasons and
40 harvest limits.

41

42 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

43

44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Pippa.
45 Does that answer.....

46

47 MR. SMITH: Excuse me, Mr. Chair.

48

49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes, go ahead, Mr.

50

1 Smith.

2

3 MR. SMITH: Yes. Pippa, in regards to
4 the existing industry, the sport hunting, the bull
5 hunting for our guides and transporters, I guess
6 there's been some concern. Their concern was that if
7 this proposal went through, this would have detrimental
8 impacts on industry. I just want to make -- get a
9 clarification if that would be.

10

11 MS. KENNER: Thank you again for that
12 question, Mr. Smith. Through the Chair.

13

14 It's a difficult -- it is not possible,
15 of course, for me to predict all outcomes, and I'm not
16 authorized to speak for the Federal Subsistence Board.
17 However, the authority of the Federal Subsistence Board
18 concerning the State's sport hunt of muskoxen on
19 Nunivak Island, if the C&T determination were adopted,
20 would be to close it. It couldn't -- the Federal
21 Subsistence Board can't manage the State season. It
22 can only close the area to the harvest of muskoxen by
23 non-Federally-qualified users, which would be most of
24 the participants in the sport hunt.

25

26 This is a robust population of
27 muskoxen. There hasn't been an observed serious crash
28 in population. It appears unlikely that there would
29 need to be conservation measures so severe that the
30 area would be closed to the harvest of muskoxen by non-
31 Federally-qualified users, including those
32 participating in the State sport hunt.

33

34 MR. SMITH: Mr. Chair.

35

36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes, go ahead, Mr.
37 Smith.

38

39 MR. SMITH: Yes. So, Pippa, in regards
40 to keeping the industry here, meaning the sport
41 hunting, as mentioned it benefits the transporters, the
42 guides, and the local economy here. I support the
43 local guides and the transporters in their concern that
44 if this proposal went through, there's so many unknowns
45 as you just mentioned yourself. You have no control.
46 We have no control of whether or not the Board of Game
47 would be able to do what they have to do, and thus
48 having a negative impact on the industry here. So
49 considering that there's an unknown, I'm voicing my

50

1 concerns that we do not -- this Council does not
2 approve this proposal to where it still -- there's
3 still so many question marks out there that we don't
4 even know what the possibilities are. So that is the
5 position that I have, Mr. Chair.

6
7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Smith, are you
8 making a motion to oppose the proposal.

9
10 MR. SMITH: Mr. Chair. If the -- just
11 for clarification as well, if we do, if the Council
12 opposes this proposal, meaning it, quote/unquoted,
13 dies.

14
15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead, Pippa.

16
17 MS. KENNER: Thanks again for that
18 question, Mr. Smith. And through the Chair.

19
20 Well, first of all I suggest that the
21 Council go through the process of hearing comments from
22 the public and agencies. And to answer your question
23 about opposition to the proposal, the Federal
24 Subsistence Board has a policy of generally deferring
25 to Councils on their decisions on customary and
26 traditional use determinations, as long as they're, you
27 know, abiding by ANILCA and some other guidelines. And
28 so the entire proposal would not necessarily go away,
29 but as it went to the Board, it would be with an
30 opposed from the Council, if indeed the Council did
31 oppose it.

32
33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Smith.

34
35 MR. SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
36 Okay. That's understood, so as Pippa recommended, if
37 there's additional comments, but as I mentioned, that
38 would be my motion to oppose -- let me grab that exact
39 number here. To oppose WP18-27.

40
41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: A motion's on the
42 floor to oppose.....

43
44 MR. ALOYSIUS: There has to be a
45 positive motion, not a negative motion.

46
47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Sorry about that, Mr.
48 Aloysius. Did you hear that, Mr. Smith?

49
50

1 MR. SMITH: Yes, I did, Mr. Chair. And
2 if someone can remind me to put this in a positive?

3
4 CHAIRMAN WILDE: What did you mean by
5 that? I didn't quite catch your request, Mr. Smith.
6

7 MR. SMITH: Yeah, Mr. Chair, I guess
8 what I'm saying I don't know how to make the thing a
9 positive motion.

10
11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Why don't we just go
12 ahead, go with go through the process of the way we
13 handle all the proposals through this, and at the end
14 we will see who will oppose or support the proposal.
15 If that's all right with you, Mr. Smith.
16

17 MR. SMITH: Mr. Chair. If that's what
18 you must do, yes.
19

20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. At this time we
21 will go on down with Mr. Tim Andrew. Are you with
22 AVCP? Any comments, Mr. AVCP. Do you have any
23 comments on this proposal for.....
24

25 MR. ANDREW: I'm with ONC.

26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Oh, you're with ONC.
27 Okay.
28
29

30 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
31 First in the process here, we have a report on Board on
32 consultations, and so there was a tribal consultation
33 that was held on September 7th. We did get a call in
34 from a tribal representative from Ohagamiut Tribal
35 Council. They did not have any recommendations on this
36 proposal. We did receive an email from the Native
37 Village of Nunapitchuk, and they did say that they were
38 in support of this proposal, but would like to add
39 Nunapitchuk as having C&T recognition also for muskox.
40

41 So that was the summary of tribal
42 comments on this proposal. And then we go into agency
43 comments and we work through the process on the back of
44 the card. We start with ADF&G, the Federal agencies,
45 and then we go to Native, tribal, village comments.
46 And so we're coming to you soon, Dale.
47

48 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman. May
49 I.....
50

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes, Mr. Aloysius.

2

3 MR. ALOYSIUS:remind the Board
4 that you cannot discuss anything until you make a
5 positive motion, then you can oppose or approve, you
6 know. You know, if we start going by this thing here,
7 then we're going to get all messed up. So somebody
8 needs to make a positive motion that you approve this
9 proposal, then you can take up the discussion.

10

11 MS. KENNER: Mr. Chair. I'd like to
12 explain one of the reasons why here with our Councils
13 we do not generally make a motion. And the reason is
14 we have a policy that after this Council makes a
15 motion, and you're in deliberation, no one can approach
16 you and talk unless you request us to. So we're going
17 to have people come up and talk and give you their
18 point of view, and then when you make the motion, that
19 all stops and we don't come up. And that's how we've
20 always done it.

21

22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes.

23

24 MS. KENNER: Okay, Bob?

25

26 MR. ALOYSIUS: No.

27

28 (Laughter)

29

30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay.

31

32 MR. ALOYSIUS: It just creates a
33 possible.....

34

35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Aloysius, we will
36 handle this like we do all the proposals that we've
37 worked on in all the years that we've been on here. If
38 that's all right with you, Mr. Aloysius, we'll handle
39 it just the way we've been handling all the rest of the
40 motions that we have had before this. Okay? Thank
41 you.

42

43 At this time are there any comments
44 from any ANCSA corporations.

45

46 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council, no,
47 we do not have any ANCSA corporation comments on this
48 proposal.

49

50

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Thank you.
2 Does ONC have any comments.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: No comments. Any
7 comments from the agencies.

8
9 Does ADF&G have any comments.

10
11 MS. OLSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. As I
12 said before, I'm Lisa Olson with Division of
13 Subsistence, Department of Fish and Game. And with me.

14
15 MR. JONES: Mr. Chair. This is Patrick
16 Jones, Alaska Department of Fish and Game. I'm the
17 Unit 18 area wildlife manager based here in Bethel.
18 And I'm up here to provide harvest information if
19 anybody has questions, or regulatory information again
20 if anybody has questions.

21
22 MS. OLSON: And we thank you, Mr.
23 Chair, for the opportunity to come and talk with your
24 Council on all of the wildlife proposals. The comments
25 that we have are preliminary at this time. We look
26 forward to hearing from all the Council members and the
27 audience members and everyone else here. We're here to
28 share our expertise and experience, and we're happy to
29 answer any questions at any time that your Council
30 members may have to help with the deliberations.

31
32 This proposal is just asking for a
33 positive customary and traditional use finding for
34 muskoxen. It doesn't ask for anything else right now.
35 It would find that residents of Nunivak Island have a
36 customary and traditional use determination for
37 muskoxen.

38
39 Muskoxen were transplanted in 1935
40 through 1936. And once hunting was allowed, the
41 residents of Nunivak incorporated hunting for them into
42 their seasonal rounds, as Ms. Pippa said.

43
44 In 1992 a cooperative management plan
45 was established between the Fish and Wildlife Service,
46 the Village of Mekoryuk, and Fish and Game. And that
47 management plan is currently being updated and revised.

48
49 And as you have in your packet I think
50

1 residents of Nunivak have harvested a range of 5 to 41
2 muskoxen per year from 2002 to 2016, and a total of
3 362, yep, for that time period. Nunivak's residents'
4 harvest is about 36 percent of the Unit 18 harvest.

5
6 Adoption of the proposal would
7 establish the pool of subsistence users eligible to
8 participate in opportunities provided under ANILCA.
9 Any other impacts to other subsistence users would
10 depend on actions taken by the Federal Subsistence
11 Board and/or the Board of Game to provide hunting
12 opportunities. Impacts to other users would also
13 depend on any other actions that the Federal Board or
14 the Board of Game might take in the future.

15
16 As Ms. Pippa mentioned, the Board of
17 Game has made a negative finding of customary and
18 traditional uses in Unit 18, and that was reaffirmed in
19 2014. There is not ANS in the State regulations
20 because there's no positive finding.

21
22 The State hunting opportunities. I
23 don't know if you would like me to go over those or
24 not, what the current State hunting opportunities are,
25 if you would like Patrick to do it.

26
27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Would you....

28
29 MR. ALOYSIUS: Move the mic closer to
30 you. Thank you.

31
32 MS. OLSON: The first bull hunts
33 started for Nunivak muskoxen in 1975 in the form of a
34 drawing hunt. Registration hunts for cows were
35 established in 1980. From 1976 through 2013.....

36
37 MS. DAMBERG: We can no longer hear on
38 the phone.

39
40 MS. OLSON: Testing on the phone. Or
41 testing.

42
43 MS. PATTON: Are you able to hear us
44 now, Carol?

45
46 MS. DAMBERG: Yes, I can hear you now.
47 Thank you, Eva.

48
49 We seem to have lost it again. I
50

1 cannot hear anything being said. This is Carol
2 Damberg.

3
4 MS. PATTON: So, Carol, no one is
5 talking right now. We're working with the connection
6 to the mic to the current speaker. So bear with us
7 here. We're working on the wires, or trying to.

8
9 MS. OLSON: Testing again? Yeah.

10
11 MS. DAMBERG: I could hear that.

12
13 MS. OLSON: Okay. All right. I was
14 just giving an overview of the State hunting
15 opportunities for muskoxen.

16
17 From 1975 through 2013 the Board of
18 Game allocated all the bull permits into the drawing
19 hunt, and all the cows into the registration hunt. In
20 2014 the Alaska Board of Game established the bull
21 registration hunt. That's RX062. If there are 30 or
22 fewer registration permits available in a year, then
23 all of them are given out in Mekoryuk. If there's more
24 than 30 registration permits available, then up to 10
25 will be given out in Bethel. If there's fewer than 10
26 cow permits available and the bull harvest can support
27 it, additional bull permits are given out as
28 registration permits in Mekoryuk.

29
30 Nunivak muskoxen have an established
31 population goal of 500 to 550 muskoxen pre-calving and
32 post hunt. From the time hunting started in 1975, the
33 total population on Nunivak has oscillated between a
34 low of 407 muskox in '92 and a high of 740 in 2015,
35 with an average population of 550 animals. Harvest
36 adjusted yearly to achieve the management objective of
37 500 to 550 after calving and before hunting, while
38 maintaining healthy age and sex compositions.

39
40 Our preliminary recommendation is
41 neutral on eligibility requirements to participate in
42 Federal opportunities.

43
44 That's all I have, Mr. Chair, unless
45 Mr. Jones here has anything else to add.

46
47 MR. JONES: I'll just standby if
48 anybody has a any questions about some of the herd
49 numbers or some of the history on how we got to where
50

1 we're at today.

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any questions for
4 ADF&G.

5

6 MR. ULAK: Mr. Chairman.

7

8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Ulak.

9

10 MR. ULAK: What was the recommendation
11 again? Your last final comment.

12

13 MS. OLSON: Thank you, Mr. Ulak. The
14 recommendation -- preliminary recommendation from the
15 State right now is neutral on any eligibility
16 requirements for subsistence hunting opportunities.
17 Mr. Chair.

18

19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: And could you tell us
20 if you know of any reason why they would standing
21 neutral.

22

23 MS. OLSON: The State would be neutral
24 because we're just neutral on eligibility requirements
25 for any hunt, Mr. Chair.

26

27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Thank you. Any
28 further questions for the Department.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If not, thank you very
33 much. Is there any comments from Federal agencies, be
34 Fish and Wildlife Service.

35

36 MR. STAHLNECKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
37 Ken Stahlnecker, Fish and Wildlife Service.

38

39 Really my question is more to Pippa. I
40 wanted to just seek some clarification. If I
41 understood what you said correctly, you indicated that
42 really the only time that the Federal Subsistence Board
43 may require placing restrictions and limiting the hunt
44 to Federally-qualified users would be in the event of a
45 conservation concern for muskox. And I just wanted to
46 clarify I thought that in addition to that, if there
47 was concern about whether subsistence needs would be
48 met or not would also provide a basis for putting
49 restrictions.

50

1 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Ken, for that
2 question. Again this is Pippa Kenner for the record,
3 OSM.
4

5 You're right. The two considerations
6 the Federal Subsistence Board makes for a closure is
7 the continuation of subsistence uses or for maintaining
8 healthy populations. And other than that, I really
9 cannot speak much more towards whether -- what a future
10 situation might be.
11

12 MR. STAHLNECKER: That was my only
13 comment. Thank you, Mr. Chair.
14

15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Are there
16 any comments from tribal, village, tribal -- anybody
17 from the village tribal organization. Comments.
18

19 (No comments)
20

21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There being none,
22 InterAgency Staff comments.
23

24 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
25 Actually that's something that will be eliminated. The
26 InterAgency Staff Committee generally does not have
27 comments until their making recommendations to the
28 Board. So this is the original process, so we're just
29 removing ISC comments for this.
30

31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, that's always
32 been there. So I've always asked that question. And
33 I'll do it as long as it's there.
34

35 Okay. We do have other Regional
36 Council comments. Pippa. Eva, sorry.
37

38 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
39 Just prior to this meeting, the Bering Sea Advisory
40 Committee met the previous two days, and they did
41 review Federal subsistence wildlife proposals. We did
42 get preliminary feedback from Jen Peaks on the action
43 that that AC took. And Council Member David Bill is
44 also, and Annie Cleveland also serve on the Bering Sea
45 AC.
46

47 And for the Bering Sea AC's review of
48 18-27, they took no action due to concerns from the
49 proposal submitter and a Mekoryuk AC representative.
50

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. They took.....

2

3 MS. PATTON: So no action from the AC.

4

5 And I just wanted to double check and
6 see if we had anybody in the audience also serving on
7 the Bering Sea AC. No. Okay.

8

9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Did you say the AC
10 took no action on this.

11

12 MS. PATTON: Correct. That was their
13 feedback. They took no action based on the concerns
14 that were raised from Mekoryuk residents. And there's
15 an AC member who is a resident of Mekoryuk as well, and
16 so based on his feedback, they took no action.

17

18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Is there any other
19 information that we should hear from any of their
20 discussion concerning this proposal.

21

22 MS. PATTON: Yeah. I don't see other
23 representatives from the Bering Sea AC. I don't know
24 if, Dale Smith, if you participated in that discussion,
25 and we have other Bering Sea AC members here, Annie
26 Cleveland and David Bill, if there's any recollection
27 from the discussion that you'd like to share with this
28 Council.

29

30 MR. SMITH: Mr. Chair.

31

32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead, Mr. Smith.

33

34 MR. SMITH: Yes. In reference to the
35 representative, the Bering Sea AC from Mekoryuk, I did
36 -- we both actually discussed this proposal and we both
37 agreed that the sport hunting needs to continue because
38 it brings vital economic benefits to the community
39 here. So that's why we're opposed to this proposal
40 here.

41

42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Any other
43 Regional Corporations -- Councils. I'm sorry. Fish
44 and Game Advisory Council committees.

45

46 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. It
47 was just the Bering Sea AC that met and took action on
48 this proposal. There are no other ACs that made
49 comments on this proposal, and no subsistence resource

50

1 commissions that made any comments on this proposal.

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Thank you.
4 Summary of written public comments. And who is that
5 raising their voice. Were there any comments back
6 there.

7

8 MS. PATTON: Okay. My apologies.
9 Bethel AC had also met.

10

11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Come sit.

12

13 MS. ROGERS: Good morning. Alissa
14 Rogers, (In Yup'ik) and hailing from Hooper Bay.

15

16 I just wanted to let you know on behalf
17 of the Bethel Advisory Committee, we supported this
18 proposal, although we did support with an amendment.
19 And currently right now we are getting that in writing,
20 so I will submit that to you guys with writing. There
21 was in discussion about this proposal in depth of what
22 this could bring and what this could be beneficial or
23 not towards the Village of Mekoryuk. We had people on
24 our advisory committee that go out there hunting and
25 have friends out there that support the people of
26 Mekoryuk.

27

28 And so once we get that in formal
29 writing I'll go ahead and submit that to Eva, if that's
30 okay with you, Eva.

31

32 MS. PATTON: Uh-huh.

33

34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Thank you,
35 Alissa. Any questions for Alissa.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Was there
40 any summary of written comments.

41

42 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. No
43 public written comments were submitted.

44

45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Any public
46 testimony concerning this proposal.

47

48 (No comments)

49

50

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There being none,
2 Regional Council recommendations. What do you
3 recommend, Council members. Mr. Smith.

4
5 MR. SMITH: Yes, Mr. Chair. I made my
6 view known that we oppose this proposal.

7
8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The motion's been
9 made. You make that in the form of a motion?

10
11 MR. SMITH: Yes, Mr. Chair.

12
13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Well, that motion
14 should be in the positive. Do you hear me, Mr. Smith?

15
16 MR. SMITH: Yes, Mr. Chair. Like I
17 mentioned before, I forgot how to make a positive
18 opposing the motion there. If somebody can help me
19 out.

20
21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Just a minute.
22 Pippa, go ahead.

23
24 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr.
25 Smith, when we say making a motion in the positive, we
26 mean you're going to make a motion to adopt this
27 proposal, and then if you feel like it, you might say,
28 and then I'm going to explain why I'm not supporting
29 this motion.

30
31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: That's exactly right.

32
33 Mr. Smith.

34
35 MR. SMITH: Okay. So I make a motion
36 to -- before I make the motion, Mr. Chair, just so that
37 I understand, when I make the motion, the positive, I
38 say the Council adopt, but I do not support it. Is
39 that how it's done?

40
41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes.

42
43 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

44
45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes, Mr. Aloysius.

46
47 MR. ALOYSIUS: I second the motion.

48
49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion's been made and

50

1 seconded. Any further discussion.
2
3 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.
4
5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Aloysius.
6
7 MR. ALOYSIUS: When we make a motion,
8 we make a positive motion. And when it's our turn then
9 we'll say why we're going to oppose it. We don't have
10 to include it in the motion.
11
12 Thank you.
13
14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
15 Aloysius. Any further discussion on the motion.
16
17 MR. SMITH: Yeah. Mr. Chair.
18
19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes, Mr. Smith.
20
21 MR. SMITH: Yeah, is this the time to
22 explain why I'm not accepting this proposal?
23
24 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes.
25
26 MR. SMITH: Okay. So, Mr. Chair, I do
27 not support this proposal due to the fact there could
28 be a potential unknowns. As indicated, as mentioned
29 before, we have an industry out here that's been
30 thriving, supporting the local economy. The people
31 benefit from the sporthunting, and I just brings
32 additional income, seasonal income for the people in
33 Mekoryuk. So that is why I oppose the proposal.
34
35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: You heard the motion
36 and justification. Any further discussion. Mr.
37 Aloysius. Any further discussion on the motion.
38
39 (No comments)
40
41 MR. ANDREW: Question.
42
43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The question's called
44 for. Roll call vote, please.
45
46 MR. ULAK: Raymond Oney.
47
48 MR. ONEY: No.
49
50

1 MR. ULAK: Dorothy Johnson. Annie
2 Cleveland.
3
4 MS. CLEVELAND: No.
5
6 MR. ULAK: Dale Smith.
7
8 MR. SMITH: No.
9
10 MR. ULAK: Michael Peters.
11
12 MR. PETERS: No.
13
14 MR. ULAK: John Andrew.
15
16 MR. ANDREW: No.
17
18 MR. ULAK: James Charles. Walter
19 Brown.
20
21 MR. BROWN: No.
22
23 MR. ULAK: Anthony, no. Lester Wilde.
24
25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: No.
26
27 MR. ULAK: Did not pass.
28
29 MR. ALOYSIUS: You forgot me.
30
31 MR. ULAK: Oh, Robert Aloysius.
32
33 MR. ALOYSIUS: No.
34
35 MR. ULAK: Sorry.
36
37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: And the motion failed.
38
39 Let's go on down to WP.....
40
41 MS. DAMBERG: To the Chair. This is
42 Carol Damberg. Could you just state then exactly what
43 the final outcome of that vote was so everybody's clear
44 as to the proposal and whether or not it was supported
45 or opposed. Adopted or.....
46
47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The vote failed
48 unanimously. Did you get that, Carol.
49
50

1 MS. DAMBERG: Thank you, sir. I did.
2 Thank you very much.

3
4 CHAIRMAN WILDE: You're welcome.

5
6 We are down to WP18-28, addition of
7 winter may-be-announced season for moose in Unit 18 and
8 Goodnews Bay. You have the floor.

9
10 MS. WORKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
11 members of the Council. My name is Suzanne Worker.
12 I'm a wildlife biologist with the Office of Subsistence
13 Management.

14
15 And I will go over I think the
16 remainder of the wildlife proposals with you and we'll
17 start with 18-28. This is for moose in Unit 28, and
18 this proposal was submitted by the Togiak National
19 Wildlife Refuge.

20
21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: That's Unit 18, not
22 28.

23
24 MS. WORKER: 18-28 for moose in Unit
25 18, that's correct.

26
27 So the proponent requests the addition
28 of a winter may-be-announced moose season in the
29 portion of Unit 18 in the Goodnews River drainage. So
30 that's the southernmost hunt area in Unit 18. And we
31 did make these -- I think you all have a copy of this
32 map if you need a reference for the hunt areas in Unit
33 18. Is that correct, Eva, they have a map?

34
35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yep, we do.

36
37 MS. WORKER: Okay. Good.

38
39 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
40 Just for reference, you'll find that map on Page 22 in
41 your meeting books. And then.....

42
43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: And you also have it
44 right here.

45
46 MS. PATTON: And that's an updated hunt
47 area descriptor.

48
49 MS. KENNER: Page 23.

50

1 MS. PATTON: Sorry, Page 23. Yeah.
2 The big map doesn't have the hunt areas on it.

3
4 MS. WORKER: But the hunt area is in
5 the Goodnews drainage. And so just a little bit of
6 history.

7
8 In January 2017 the Board of Game
9 established a may-be-announced season in this hunt
10 area, and so this allows the area biologist to
11 determine the length and the timing of an opening, and
12 to establish the harvest quota for that hunt. So
13 that's in addition to the existing fall hunt. So
14 basically this gave the State the opportunity to open a
15 winter hunt in the Goodnews drainage. And so the
16 proposal before you today seeks similar flexibility for
17 the Federal manager to open a Federal season if that's
18 warranted.

19
20 Moose are relatively new to this area
21 and the population has grown substantially in the past
22 decade. In March 2017 the population estimate was 600
23 moose. And though there is some uncertainty in that
24 number, the population is believed to have grown since
25 2012.

26
27 Moose harvest has been allowed in the
28 Goodnews drainage since 2008, and since that time all
29 but one moose has been taken by Federally-qualified
30 subsistence users. And they've primarily have been
31 taken by the residents of Goodnews Bay and Platinum,
32 the two communities that are located within the hunt
33 area. The average reported harvest is 13 moose
34 annually. And the annual harvest has never exceeded
35 the quota of 20 moose which was established in 2011.
36 So a winter hunt would basically provide additional
37 opportunity for that quota to be met.

38
39 These changes aren't expected to affect
40 the moose population in this area since the action has
41 already been taken on the State side. So this winter
42 hunt can already exist in State regulation. And
43 because Federally-qualified subsistence users are
44 already hunting with a State registration permit.
45 However, having the ability to open a winter season
46 does give local Federal managers the ability to respond
47 to a dynamic moose population. And the use of the
48 registration permits and those harvest quotas do
49 protect the population against over-harvest if that's a
50

1 concern.

2

3 So the OSM preliminary conclusion is to
4 support WP18-28 with a modification to delegate
5 authority to the Refuge manager to close the fall
6 season and to open and close the winter season, and set
7 harvest quotas and restrictions. So our modification
8 basically just gives the Federal manager the
9 flexibility to respond to changing situations in that
10 hunt area.

11

12 So that's all I have.

13

14 If you want more information, I can
15 help you with that.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any questions. Mr.
20 Aloysius. You looked at me like you had a question,
21 that's why I said do you have a question. Any other
22 questions. Any questions.

23

24 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

25

26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes, Mr. Aloysius.

27

28 MR. ALOYSIUS: The first thing you do
29 when you open the page to WP18-20 is you make a motion
30 that you adopt this proposal. Then you go through this
31 and in the end you reinstate the motion and then you
32 vote. So you cannot discuss anything without making a
33 motion and having it seconded. So I move that we adopt
34 Proposal WP18-28.

35

36 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. If
37 I may help to.....

38

39 MR. ALOYSIUS: Is there a second.

40

41 MS. PATTON: If I may help to clarify,
42 the process for the proposal review and procedures is
43 actually to present the information to the Council
44 first so the Council has.....

45

46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: That's what we've
47 always done.

48

49 MS. PATTON:a full analysis, the

50

1 background information, both the social, culturally and
2 the biological information, and then to hear from the
3 public and from the tribes and from agencies that also
4 have further input to add. So that before the Council
5 makes a motion, the Council has the full information to
6 consider on what the motion it would like to make.

7
8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes. That's the
9 process.

10
11 MR. ALOYSIUS: The discussion process
12 makes sure that people understand exactly what they're
13 voting for.

14
15 MS. PATTON: Right. And so we get --
16 if we're following along on the presentation
17 procedures, we first hear all of the background
18 information that will help inform the Council. And
19 then on No. 7 is when the Council makes a
20 recommendation based on that information, and then
21 comes the discussion so that the Council can have a
22 discussion with itself as well after an opportunity to
23 have asked questions of the presenters and the public.
24 So that's when the Council will make a motion based on
25 having heard the information to help provide.....

26
27 MR. ALOYSIUS: No. 7, regional
28 recommendation is when it's time for the Council to
29 voice how they're going to vote.

30
31 MS. PATTON: Correct.

32
33 MR. ALOYSIUS: It's not a time for a
34 motion. The motion is made before you even look at and
35 listen to the testimony for or against that motion.

36
37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Robert, Mr. Aloysius,
38 we will continue conducting this meeting as we always
39 have in the past.

40
41 MR. ALOYSIUS: That is the way we
42 always did it, yes.

43
44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: That is not the way I
45 have always conducted the meeting in this Council.
46 We've always conducted this meeting following the
47 procedure that we've always used, and that is what we
48 are going to continue using. If you have any problem
49 with that, then we can discuss that later.

50

1 At this time we have a motion -- or we
2 have a -- sorry. We have a proposal, WP18-28, for
3 addition of winter may-be-announced season for moose.
4 And we will continue on with the process.

5
6 Okay-doke. Are there any written
7 comments from ADF&G. Or, I'm sorry, tribes.

8
9 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
10 Again we held tribal consultation for the region on
11 September 7th. There were no specific tribal comments
12 on this proposal, for WP18-28.

13
14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Are there
15 any ANCSA comments, corporation comments.

16
17 MS. PATTON: And no corporation
18 comments on this proposal. Thank you.

19
20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. We will go on
21 down to ADF&G comments.

22
23 Are you done, Suzanne?

24
25 MS. WORKER: I am done.

26
27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you.

28
29 MS. WORKER: Would you like me to take
30 my seat for this portion?

31
32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Go ahead.

33
34 MR. JONES: Through the Chair. Again
35 my name is Patrick Jones. I'm with Alaska Department
36 of Fish and Game, Division of Wildlife Conservation.
37 I'll read you the short statement we have on this
38 proposal.

39
40 Again WP18-28, this proposal submitted
41 by Togiak National Wildlife Refuge would add a winter
42 may-be-announced moose season to the portion of Unit
43 18, the Goodnews River drainage south of the Unit 18
44 boarder.

45
46 Introduction. The moose population in
47 the Goodnews River drainage has grown to an estimated
48 325 for the actual Goodnews drainage. You heard 600
49 moose just a minute ago, but that's for a bigger area

50

1 that includes some survey areas outside the hunt area.
2 But for in the hunt area itself it's 325, which has
3 grown considerably.
4

5 Currently there's a September
6 State/Federal hunt managed by quota. This year the
7 quota was 30 bulls. Most years it's 20. In the
8 history of the hunt we've only reached the quota once.
9 A lot of years it's 15, 18 moose that are reported
10 harvest in the Goodnews area. Again, the hunt is
11 administered by a State registration permit. The
12 permit distribution is limited into the communities of
13 Goodnews Bay and Platinum.
14

15 The addition of a winter season will
16 increase the opportunities for moose harvest. I can
17 use this year as an example. So the quota this year
18 was 30 antlered bull moose. The season ended September
19 30th. To date there's only 12 moose reported harvest.
20 So that leaves an additional harvest on the table where
21 we have enough permits left over that we could have
22 another winter season and give people down there a
23 little additional opportunity.
24

25 The bull to cow ratio is high, 45.
26 Calf to cow ratio is really high at 49. So it's a very
27 healthy population. It's growing rapidly.
28

29 Impacts on subsistence uses. The
30 adoption of this proposal would increase opportunity
31 for moose harvest by Alaska residents.
32

33 And then the only thing the State
34 recommends to support this proposal and adopt it with
35 modifications. The one small modification that we
36 would recommend is currently the State regulation has a
37 bag limit of one moose, and this proposal is asking for
38 one antlered moose. If the regulation could be aligned
39 with the State regulation, there would be less
40 enforcement issues and less confusion for State and
41 Federal managers, and less confusion for the hunters
42 themselves. So if we could change proposal from one
43 antlered bull to one moose, then the State regulation
44 and the Federal regulation would be exactly the same.
45

46 And that's all.
47

48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any questions for
49 ADF&G.
50

1 Mr. Brown.

2

3 MR. BROWN: Yeah. (In Yup'ik)

4

5 INTERPRETER: Okay. Are these
6 proposals just for the residents of Goodnews Bay, and
7 does it include the neighboring villages like Togiak,
8 Quinhagak, and does that include those villages,
9 because some of these people from the other villages go
10 over to Goodnews Bay. Even they reside in Goodnews
11 Bay, they are from Quinhagak, Platinum or others. Is
12 it just for those permanent residents or not for the
13 people that move into Goodnews to live there. And
14 that's my question.

15

16 MR. BROWN: That's my question.

17

18 MR. JONES: Through the Chair to Mr.
19 Brown. That was a good question. Right now you have
20 to be an Alaska resident to participate in the hunt,
21 but the limiting factor is the permits are only
22 available in Goodnews and Platinum, so you have to go
23 to Goodnews or Platinum to get a permit before the hunt
24 starts. But somebody from Eek or Quinhagak or Togiak
25 is certainly welcome to do that.

26

27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Any further
28 questions for the Department.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There being none,
33 thank you. Fish and Game. Department of Fish and
34 Game. Ah, Fish and Wildlife, I'm sorry. I forgot the
35 Service.

36

37 MS. HENRY: Mr. Chair and members of
38 the Council. Susanna Henry, Refuge manager at Togiak
39 National Wildlife Refuge.

40

41 It makes sense that we would support
42 this proposal since we put it in.

43

44 And I want to note that there's been
45 great cooperation from the residents of Goodnews Bay
46 and Platinum in allowing the moose population to
47 increase. There was a moratorium in the past, long
48 before I became the Refuge manager, that helped get the
49 moose numbers up, as well as the fact that it's really

50

1 new habitat for the moose. They're colonizing an area
2 that hasn't been inhabited in the past. And it
3 mentions that in the description that there really
4 weren't any moose to be found there before the year
5 2000. So the habitat is very healthy and supports the
6 moose. So, yes, we're in support.

7
8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Any
9 questions for the Service. Ma'am, there's a question
10 here for you.

11
12 MR. ONEY: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
13 Chairman. I think this is relating to Pat Snow's
14 comments relating to aligning the State and the Federal
15 regulations for the winter hunt. I just want to know
16 what it's going to take to do that.

17
18 Thank you.

19
20 MS. HENRY: Mr. Oney, through the
21 Chair. I think it would require a modification of the
22 proposal if we're talking about the change from one
23 antlered moose to one moose.

24
25 Are you here to help me?

26
27 MS. WORKER: I'm here to help you.

28
29 Thank you, Mr. Chair. We might need a
30 little bit of clarification from Patrick, but the State
31 may-be-announced season is one moose and the proposed
32 Federal may-be-announced season is also one moose. So
33 I don't think that that's an issue.

34
35 (Teleconference interruption --
36 participant phones not muted)

37
38 MR. JONES: So I may be mistaken, maybe
39 I saw an earlier draft and things changed. So I guess
40 I -- no, it looks like that change has already been
41 made, so no modification necessary at this time.

42
43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Is that one moose or
44 one antlered moose? There's a lot of difference there.

45
46 MR. JONES: Yeah, it's one moose on
47 both side now. So you can support it as is. Our
48 recommendation would be that.

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Thank you.

2
3 (Teleconference interruption --
4 participant phones not muted)

5
6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Anybody on the
7 teleconference that would like to make a comment.
8 There's a lot of talking out there that I thought maybe
9 there might be somebody in the teleconference that
10 would like to say something.

11
12 Any other comments from Council.
13 Questions.

14
15 Go ahead. Mr. Andrew.

16
17 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
18 I don't feel too comfortable with this one. First of
19 all this proposal came in from Togiak Refuge, and they
20 won't be too happy if we make a proposal for Bristol
21 side or the cross areas, too.

22
23 My point is coming from a different
24 area, and that Goodnews drainage is a small area
25 compared to the rest of Unit 18, and the rest of Unit
26 18 on the Yukon side and the main Kuskokwim side is a
27 large area.

28
29 And it's the way it's just written,
30 it's open. Anybody can go down there and go hunt
31 especially if it's a winter hunt with snowmachines.
32 You can easily over-harvest small areas if you have a
33 lot of good snow coverage on the trail. Some of us
34 have done winter hunts with snowmachines that know how
35 to track them long ways, too.

36
37 My point is that I'm just not
38 comfortable with this proposal.

39
40 Thank you.

41
42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other comments.

43
44 Ms. Cleveland.

45
46 MS. CLEVELAND: Yesterday at our
47 meeting we had somebody from Goodnews talking with us,
48 and we approved this WP18-28. Doi.

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other comments.

2

3 Mr. Peters. Questions.

4

5 MR. PETERS: I've got like question.

6 You know, I was kind of concerned about the boundaries
7 on this whole area. And I think the concern is coming
8 from the, you know, Yukon-Kuskokwim Board, and I think
9 my opinion or my comment would be, you know, how it's
10 going to affect the local people, and the concern about
11 the moose in that area or whatever. But there was a
12 concern about, you know, how much they could get, and
13 they're kind of -- I was kind of wondering about that,
14 because of the boundaries and they're looking at two
15 different -- I know they're the same department, but I
16 think my concern is how recommendations from this Board
17 in order -- how it's going to affect the local people
18 there and the harvest. That was my concern.

19

20 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

21

22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: What were you saying
23 about this Council? I didn't quite get that.

24

25 MR. PETERS: Well, what I'm saying, you
26 know, on the boundaries, I was just kind of concerned
27 about -- You know, I know they might be the same
28 department, but on the Council should have some say
29 over the -- like proposals of how to the regulations is
30 set.

31

32 Thank you.

33

34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: That's why this
35 proposal is -- any other comments, questions concerning
36 WP18-28.

37

38 Mr. Bill.

39

40 MR. BILL: Yeah. Mr. Chair. This is
41 Bill. Mr. Chair.

42

43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead, Mr. Bill.

44

45 (Teleconference interruption --
46 participant phones not muted)

47

48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Turn on your mic.

49

50

1 MR. BILL: Unit 18 has different way of
2 doing things. In some places they're getting one
3 moose, in some places they're getting two moose. At
4 Goodnews is the number going -- number of the moose
5 going down or is it stable. And it says here one bull.

6
7 MS. WORKER: Thank you, Mr. Bill. I
8 can respond to that question. Through the Chair.

9
10 So the population in the Goodnews
11 drainage in the southern Unit 18 is growing right now.
12 It's an area where there have not been moose until
13 recently, and so there's a lot of potential for the
14 moose population to grow in that area.

15
16 So this proposal isn't increasing the
17 harvest limit. It's just allowing additional
18 opportunity. So if someone doesn't get a fall moose,
19 they might have an opportunity to go get a moose in the
20 winter. It doesn't increase the harvest limit at all.
21 It's one antlered bull in the fall, and if you don't
22 get an antlered bull, then if they opened a season, you
23 could go out and get a moose in the winter.

24
25 The way that this proposal is written,
26 the Refuge manager which is the Togiak National
27 Wildlife Refuge manager has the ability to set harvest
28 restrictions, so if they thought that it wasn't a good
29 idea to harvest cow moose, for instance, they could
30 specify that only bull moose or antlered moose were
31 allowed to be harvested. So the way this proposal is
32 written, it gives the manager a lot of flexibility to
33 set the regulations in the way that they think is best
34 for the population. And that can be important in a
35 population that's growing quickly, because we don't
36 want it to get too big. We want to keep it just right.
37 And so managers can help with that by regulating
38 harvest.

39
40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Sue.

41
42 Mr. Aloysius.

43
44 MR. ALOYSIUS: Earlier on I thought I
45 heard somebody say that it's very restrictive, because
46 you have to be from that area and you have to apply for
47 State registration permit in order to get permission to
48 hunt in that area. I might be wrong, but that's the
49 way I got it.

50

1 MS. WORKER: Mr. Chair.

2
3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes.

4
5 MS. WORKER: How's that? Okay. Thank
6 you. So I can respond to that, Mr. Aloysius. Under
7 State regulation, you need a registration permit and
8 those permits are only distributed in the two
9 communities in the Goodnews drainage. So in that
10 sense, there is limited participation. On the Federal
11 side, the C&T says that if you are a resident of Unit
12 18 or of Kalskag, you can hunt moose in the Goodnews
13 drainage. So the participation is not statewide. I
14 would expect that the participation in this hunt would
15 be quite limited, mostly to local people.

16
17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Any other
18 questions.

19
20 Mr. Brown.

21
22 MR. BROWN: (In Yup'ik)

23
24 INTERPRETER: If I am a permit holder
25 and I didn't catch a moose, how can I use that permit
26 if I didn't catch any moose. That was my question.

27
28 MR. BROWN: That's my question.

29
30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Did you get it?

31
32 MS. WORKER: I believe the answer to
33 that question is if you have a permit and you don't get
34 a moose, you can't use the permit in another way. The
35 permit is good for this hunt.

36
37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other questions.
38 Sorry about that. Any other questions.

39
40 (No comments)

41
42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If not, thank you.
43 Are there any comments from tribal villages. Any
44 questions, comments from tribes in attendance.

45
46 (No comments)

47
48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: None. Other Regional
49 Councils comments.

50

1 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
2 Again the Bering Sea AC did review this proposal and
3 the AC was in support of 18-28 with a vote of 10/0 in
4 support of 18-28. And we also have representatives
5 from the Bethel AC here who can speak to the Bethel AC
6 discussion and recommendations on this proposal.

7
8 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
9 This is Alissa Rogers, Bethel Advisory Committee. Our
10 committee was in support of this proposal unanimously.

11
12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you.

13
14 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
15 There were no SRCs that met to review this proposal and
16 no public written comments either. Thank you.

17
18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Regional comment.
19 Regional Council recommendations. What is the wish of
20 the Council on this Proposal WP18-28. Council.

21
22 MR. ONEY: Yeah. Mr. Chairman. I
23 move to adopt Wildlife Proposal 18-28.

24
25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion's been
26 made.....

27
28 MR. ALOYSIUS: Second.

29
30 CHAIRMAN WILDE:by Mr. Oney to
31 adopt Proposal 18-28.

32
33 MR. ALOYSIUS: Second.

34
35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Seconded by Mr.
36 Aloysius. Any further discussion. Any further
37 discussion.

38
39 MR. ONEY: Question.

40
41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Question's called for.
42 Roll call vote, please.

43
44 MR. ULAK: Annie Cleveland.

45
46 MS. CLEVELAND: Yes.

47
48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Just a minute.

49
50

1 MS. KENNER: Thank you. Can I come
2 forward. Mr. Chair, thank you very much for calling me
3 forward. My name is Pippa Kenner, and I'm with the
4 Office of Subsistence Management.

5
6 After you went into deliberation, I
7 didn't hear much of a justification for supporting the
8 proposal. And I was wondering if somebody from that
9 area, particularly someone like Cleveland, on the
10 Council might want to make a statement to justify your
11 vote.

12
13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Justify.

14
15 MS. KENNER: Yeah.

16
17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes. Any further --
18 go ahead, Annie, do you have any justifications for the
19 vote that you're going to make. It's your vote.

20
21 MS. CLEVELAND: Yeah. After we talk
22 with that guy from Goodnews yesterday, him and I
23 agreed, since this is area, too, we're talking about.
24 We both agreed to approve this.

25
26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: And the reason why you
27 approved it was because why?

28
29 MS. CLEVELAND: Because during moose
30 season there were still people that have permit, never
31 get their moose, and we want to give them a chance to
32 go hunting in wintertime. That's how.

33
34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Now we were on
35 a vote. Motion. We've got a motion on the floor to
36 vote. You were calling the motion -- I mean, I'm
37 sorry, you were calling the vote.

38
39 MR. ULAK: Okay. Let's go back again.
40 Go back to the voting on this motion. Annie Cleveland.

41
42 MS. CLEVELAND: Yes.

43
44 MR. ULAK: Dale Smith.

45
46 MR. SMITH: Yes.

47
48 MR. ULAK: Did he say yes?

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes.
2
3 MR. ULAK: Michael Peters.
4
5 MR. PETERS: Yes.
6
7 MR. ULAK: John Andrew.
8
9 MR. ANDREW: Yes.
10
11 MR. ULAK: James Charles. Walter
12 Brown.
13
14 MR. BROWN: Yes.
15
16 MR. ULAK: David Bill.
17
18 MR. BILL: Yes.
19
20 MR. ULAK: Robert Aloysius.
21
22 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yes.
23
24 MR. ULAK: Raymond Oney.
25
26 MR. ONEY: Yes.
27
28 MR. ULAK: Dorothy Johnson. Anthony,
29 yes. Lester Wilde.
30
31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester Wilde, Yes.
32 And my justification is that we've worked a long time
33 to try and get our moose population up to the point
34 where everybody within our area can have their protein
35 when they need it. And that's a very good thing that
36 we're coming to after the moratorium for the Kuskokwim
37 River. This is starting to show us some results. And
38 this is good to see.
39
40 MR. ALOYSIUS: What was the outcome of
41 the motion.
42
43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: And the vote is yes.
44 And at this time we'll break for lunch. Be back
45 at.....
46
47 MR. ALOYSIUS: 1:30.
48
49 CHAIRMAN WILDE:1:30. 1:30
50

1 sounds good.

2

3 MS. PATTON: Okay. So the motion
4 passes by a vote of 10 in favor.

5

6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: After lunch we'll be
7 going back into our session, 18-29.

8

9 (Off record)

10

11 (On record)

12

13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The time is now 1:30.
14 Next on the agenda is Mr. Tim Owen -- Tim Andrew from
15 ONC would like to speak on Proposal 29, 30, and 31.

16

17 MR. T. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr.
18 Chairman. I'm not sure how you wanted me to proceed,
19 but what I'd like to do is address these proposals as
20 you move forward on them, like address.....

21

22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: For each one?

23

24 MR. T. ANDREW:Proposal 29 now
25 and then when you get to 30, 31.....

26

27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: For each one. Okay.
28 That would be -- we an arrange that. Go ahead.

29

30 MR. T. ANDREW: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
31 Chair. My name is Timothy Andrew. I'm the director of
32 natural resources for the Orutsararmiut Native Council,
33 the tribal council of Bethel.

34

35 And I've been here since June 5 after
36 the passing of Greg Roczicka. He was one of the
37 extremely talented staff that ONC had and definitely a
38 very valuable member to the Y-K Delta Regional Advisory
39 Committee. Along with his good friends and family and
40 along with you, morn his unfortunate passing.

41

42 Anyway, the Orutsararmiut Traditional
43 Native Council has a council themselves. They also
44 have a subsistence committee and various other
45 committees that provide direction to various
46 departments. And I am under the direction of the ONC
47 Subsistence Council. It's made up of I believe seven
48 members. Some of them are council members, some of
49 them are also community members, and they are people

50

1 that are very active in subsistence hunting, fishing,
2 and gathering from this great land of ours. They
3 travel long distances for various game that they pursue
4 out into the coast for seals or marine mammals and for
5 the harvest of fish, and they travel to the Yukon for
6 moose, upriver into Unit 19 for moose and caribou, over
7 to the hill for caribou. They are very much talented
8 hunters and very good outdoorsmen.

9
10 Under the direction of the ONC
11 Subsistence Committee, they directed the natural
12 resources staff to develop three proposals. The moose
13 proposal, WP18-29 is one of them. And we are
14 requesting -- or ONC is requesting that change the date
15 of the moose hunt closing date from March 31st to April
16 30th. This would.....

17
18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: March 31st to what?
19 Pardon me?

20
21 MR. T. ANDREW: March 31st to April
22 30th. So it would be extending the moose hunt by one
23 month. And it was submitted to allow the subsistence
24 hunters of -- or the tribal members of our community an
25 additional month when daylights are long, when
26 temperatures are warm so that it would minimize the
27 need to camp. And a lot of them do travel up that way,
28 and some of them do camp and some of them do take the
29 round trip.

30
31 And the moose population in Unit 18
32 remainder, the area in question, and this proposal is
33 directed towards that area, is extremely high. You'll
34 probably hear from the State of Alaska that the
35 population -- or the moose population is probably about
36 20,000 animals from Russian Mission down to the coast.
37 We have very few people that live in that Unit 18
38 remainder area where the moose population is high. So
39 the hunting pressure by the local people on the Yukon
40 River is having very minimal impact on the harvestable
41 surplus.

42
43 And the moose populations here are
44 finally developing. They are doing well. There are
45 probably about 1400 animals so far, but still not
46 enough to provide for a continuous sustainable hunt, or
47 a hunt without limitation.

48
49 This proposal would provide additional
50

1 opportunity for people who did not harvest a moose that
2 their families need for the winter, for the spring, to
3 allow them to harvest some of the surplus some of the
4 surplus moose that we have on the Yukon.

5
6 And during the month of April,
7 according to some of the weather sources that we have,
8 the area gets about six inches of snow during that time
9 period. The average temperatures are about 35 degrees
10 Fahrenheit. The average daylight during that time is
11 about 16 hours per day. So it would provide much
12 easier access, much better traveling conditions, much
13 better camping conditions for hunters to take the
14 additional moose that they need to fill their freezers.

15
16 And so based on the information that
17 we've provided, the ONC requests that the hunting
18 season be changed from March -- or the closing date of
19 Unit 18 remainder closes -- we recommend that it
20 changes from March 31st to April 30th.

21
22 And thank you, Mr. Chair.

23
24 That concludes my testimony and I would
25 be happy to answer any questions you may have.

26
27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any questions for Tim.

28
29 (No comments)

30
31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There being none,
32 thank you, Tim.

33
34 MR. T. ANDREW: Thank you.

35
36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: And while we're still
37 on this, is Alissa here. Not here yet. Okay. Is Evon
38 Waska on teleconference?

39
40 MS. PATTON: Back here.

41
42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Evan.

43
44 MR. WASKA: yeah.

45
46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Come on up.

47
48 MR. WASKA: Quyana for the opportunity.
49 I'm Evon Waska, Bethel, subsistence hunter and
50

1 fisherman.

2
3 I don't know if fishing's on your
4 agenda, but the biggest complaint, and as for my own
5 sister in Kasigluk, Fish and Game is letting us fish
6 too late. And my sister's fish, all that hard work,
7 soured up, and they end up giving the backs to the dog
8 mushers. And I see on public comment from last year
9 from John Andrew and Charlie Brown here -- excuse me --
10 this was brought it. It's been brought up many times.
11 They're letting us fish too late. They let us fish --
12 they let the fish drying weather pass by and let us
13 fish when the blue flies come out and the rainy weather
14 starts. That's not right. It creates hardship for my
15 people that are trying to put up fish for the winter,
16 these long winter months. And I hope they give us an
17 earlier opportunity on the fish drying weather. Enough
18 hardship.

19
20 And another one is when they open up,
21 they let us use four-inch, and try to tell us to eat
22 whitefish, and the salmon are running out there. I
23 don't think that's right. Our counterparts in
24 Anchorage, they eat king salmon. We first people, we
25 wait. And when they open up, they tell us to eat
26 whitefish. And that's not right either. I find that
27 discriminatory.

28
29 And to change the subject, this
30 Kuskokwim RM 615 hunt, I don't know when the changes
31 occurred, but this change they made up the tributaries
32 where the mountains are, and they closed the rest of
33 the area to moose hunting early. And these tributaries
34 that come out of the mountain, only jet boats and it
35 looked like they made it easy for sporthunters with
36 float planes go up that way, and create more hardship
37 for my people to put meat away for the wintertime. And
38 that's not right. I was too late to make proposals to
39 change the way back it was. And they closed it too
40 early. Moose hunting.

41
42 Quyanana.

43
44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, anyone can make
45 a proposal at any time on any subject that we deal with
46 here. So if you want to put in a proposal to that
47 effect, it's up to you.

48
49 MR. WASKA: Yeah. I apologize for
50

1 raising my voice, but.....

2

3

CHAIRMAN WILDE: We understand.

4

5

6

MR. WASKA: Okay. I apologize for
leaving early, but I've got other things to do.

7

8

Quyana

9

10

(In Yup'ik)

11

12

13

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah. Any questions
for Mr. Waska.

14

15

(No comments)

16

17

18

CHAIRMAN WILDE: There being none,
thank you.

19

20

MR. WASKA: Quyana.

21

22

23

24

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Is Alissa here yet?
No. I guess we can wait until she gets here for her
testimony.

25

26

27

28

29

At this time we'll be going on down to
WP18-29. Lengthen moose season by one month in Unit 18
remainder. We're talking about Unit 18 remainder, not
Unit 18 itself, but the remainder.

30

31

32

Ms. Pippa. Or who has this? You do.
Yes, ma'am.

33

34

35

MS. WORKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
I'll take this one. This is Suzanne Worker.

36

37

38

39

40

41

And WP18-29 was submitted by ONC, and
they request that the moose season in Unit 18 remainder
be lengthened from August 1st to March 31st to August
1st to April 30th, so adding the month of April to the
moose season.

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

And as Mr. Andrew said, they think that
the longer days and the warmer temperatures offer
additional subsistence opportunity. As has been
brought up many times, and I know everybody is aware,
the moose population in northern Unit 18 is doing quite
well. It's been increasing for some time now. The
most recent estimates range between two moose per

50

1 square mile and 4.7 moose per square mile depending on
2 the survey area and the timing. The most recent
3 composition surveys which were conducted in 2013 on the
4 Lower Yukon show that there were 40 bulls per 100 cows,
5 which exceeds the management objective, and that there
6 were 48 calves per 100 cows. So at this point there's
7 really no reason to be concerned about the moose
8 population.

9
10 In 2015 the reported harvest was 775
11 moose, and that's increased quite a bit over the years
12 as the population has increased. And most of this
13 reported harvest is by residents of Unit 18. Adoption
14 of this proposal will increase subsistence opportunity
15 and it's not expected to have a detrimental effect on
16 the moose population.

17
18 But one of the things that I do want to
19 mention, and this came out in the analysis is that
20 there is concern that a late spring season in April
21 could result in damage to the tundra in years when
22 there's not very much snow on the ground, so that's
23 just something to keep in mind as you deliberate this
24 proposal.

25
26 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
27 support WP18-29.

28
29 And I can take questions or give you
30 more information if you need.

31
32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any questions Council
33 members.

34
35 (No comments)

36
37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There being none,
38 thank you.

39
40 MR. SMITH: Mr. Chair.

41
42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes, Mr. Smith.

43
44 MR. SMITH: This is Dale in Mekoryuk.

45
46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead, Mr. Smith.

47
48 MR. SMITH: Yeah. Is there a map of
49 the Unit 18 remainder in our booklet here?

50

1 MS. PATTON: Page 23.
2
3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Eva.
4
5 MR. SMITH: Yes. I'm on Page 23.
6
7 MS. WORKER: Mr. Smith through the
8 Chair. The Unit 18 remainder is the -- it's a large
9 hunt area in the northern part. It encompasses the
10 Yukon drainage and more. So I don't know if you found
11 the map, but it's the northernmost hunt area in Unit
12 18, and it's quite large.
13
14 MR. SMITH: Okay. Thank you.
15
16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Sorry. Are there any
17 further questions concerning Proposal 18-29.
18
19 MS. JOHNSON: Yes, Uncle Lester's
20 chairing the meeting.
21
22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Hello? We are down to
23 report on Board consultation, tribes.
24
25 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
26 Again the Federal Subsistence Board and Office of
27 Subsistence Management conducted tribal consultation.
28 We did get feedback from Native Village of Marshall and
29 the Ohagamiut Tribal Council that generally any
30 opportunity for people in the region to be able to
31 increase access and harvest opportunity was
32 appreciated. Those were the only specific tribal
33 comments that we received for this proposal.
34
35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Was there
36 any comments from ANCSA corporations?
37
38 MS. PATTON: And no comments from ANCSA
39 corporations. Thank you.
40
41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. ADF&G.
42
43 MR. JONES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
44 For the record this is Patrick Jones with Alaska
45 Department of Fish and Game, Division of Wildlife
46 Conservation.
47
48 You've already heard most of this, but
49 I'll -- so this proposal was from ONC to extend the
50

1 hunting season by 30 days in the spring in Unit 18
2 remainder. Just to help paint a picture of that, on
3 the coast the boundary starts at Ishkowitz River right
4 by Kong, and it goes all the way up the coast all the
5 way to Kotlik, and it includes the entire Yukon
6 drainage in Unit 18. So it is a very large area.

7
8 So the area affected by this proposal
9 currently has the longest hunting season in North
10 America with 243 days starting on August 1st, running
11 to March 31st on the Federal side and March 15th on the
12 State side. Very liberal bag limits with two moose for
13 residents and one moose for non-resident. This
14 proposal asks to extend the hunting season for
15 Federally-qualified residents an additional 30 days by
16 changing the season from the end of March to the end of
17 April.

18
19 The Department with the help of Fish
20 and Wildlife assesses the moose population in Unit 18
21 remainder with three census areas along the Yukon
22 River, so the lowest Yukon, which is everything
23 downstream of Mountain Village. We survey the
24 Andreafsky River area, and then we survey the upper
25 Paimiut area, the rest of the Yukon there. And those
26 three areas combined, the pretty conservative estimate
27 right now is we have at least 20,000 moose right there
28 along the river itself, and again that number is
29 probably low at this point, because some of these
30 surveys are old. And all indications from there, the
31 data we collect with spring twinning rates and fall
32 survival is that population is continuing to grow.

33
34 So total harvest in Unit 18 remainder
35 has slowly increased over the years. As the State and
36 Fish and Wildlife have liberalized seasons and bag
37 limits, the harvest has gone up. However, we're
38 estimating right now that the annual yearly harvest is
39 less than five percent of the population, and this
40 population of moose could easily sustain harvest of 10
41 to 15 percent. So right now what that means is it
42 looks like we are approaching 1,000 moose a year that
43 people harvest on the Yukon if we include fall and
44 winter seasons, residents and non-residents. And it
45 could easily sustain up to 3,000 moose a year. So
46 we're way under the potential harvest there. And
47 that's just if we wanted to flatline that population
48 and keep it from growing. There's some evidence with
49 some of our browse surveys that it might be wise to
50

1 actually let that population get a little smaller.

2

3 So we don't have any conservation
4 issues with this proposal as it would probably -- an
5 additional 30 days in the spring would probably have
6 little or no effect on the population.

7

8 The only downside of this proposal is
9 it would bring State and Federal regulations further
10 out of alignment. Like I said right now there's a 15-
11 day difference between the State and the Federal
12 regulations. And just for those reasons, the
13 Department's neutral at this time.

14

15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any questions for the
16 Department.

17

18 Mr. Aloysius.

19

20 MR. ALOYSIUS: I don't hunt in that
21 area. Is that a regular harvest ticket that you use or
22 do you have to have a special ticket like up here -- I
23 mean, down here and upriver?

24

25 MR. JONES: Yes. Through the Chair to
26 Mr. Aloysius. It's actually -- it's the green harvest
27 ticket and each person -- or each Alaska resident can
28 have two of them, because you're allowed to shoot two
29 moose throughout the year.

30

31 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you.

32

33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Do you have a
34 descriptor for Unit 18 remainder?

35

36 MR. JONES: I don't have it on me, but
37 we can find it real fast if you want me to read the
38 whole.....

39

40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah. I've been
41 wanting to find a descriptor for that, because I've
42 seen a couple different descriptors in the book for the
43 remainder of Unit 18. Yeah, I've got one of those.
44 But there's -- the only descriptor I've ever seen on
45 Unit 18 remainder was a line from Cape Romanzof, went
46 up to Chuathbaluk and from Chuathbaluk a line to
47 Mountain Village, and anything below that. I don't
48 know if that's the same descriptor for Unit 18
49 remainder. That don't sound right to me.

50

1 MR. JONES: Mr. Chair. That used to be
2 the boundary. We used to have that lowest Yukon
3 separated, but a few years ago, maybe five, I'm not
4 sure exactly how many years ago, but we changed it. We
5 got rid of that line, so it's just everything north of
6 the Johnson River, and it includes the lowest Yukon and
7 everything that was south of Chuathbaluk. We just got
8 rid of that.

9
10 I'll show you.

11
12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Does that make that
13 whole part of Unit 18 the remainder?

14
15 MR. JONES: Yeah.

16
17 MR. JONES: So that's the legal
18 description, but I could draw it with my pen here for
19 you, too. So -- well, it's right here. It's all this
20 whole area, everything north of this line.

21
22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Oh, okay.

23
24 MR. JONES: Yeah, because it used to be
25 whatever. That line got -- this was just all this.

26
27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Good, that
28 makes it a lot better. Okay. Everybody's clear on the
29 area that we're talking about, the remainder of Yukon.

30
31 (Council nods affirmatively)

32
33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. The next, the
34 Service. Fish and Wildlife Service.

35
36 Thank you. Or, just a minute, we have
37 one question here.

38
39 Mr. Brown.

40
41 MR. BROWN: Yeah, I have a question for
42 you. (In Yup'ik)

43
44 INTERPRETER: Out there, the
45 boundaries, they are marked on the GPS and most of the
46 people, most of the residents are not so good at
47 reading GPS maps, the coordinates. If we can mark the
48 boundaries with something so people will know the
49 boundaries, that would be really helpful.

50

1 Thank you.

2
3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Was that a question
4 you asked? I'm sorry.

5
6 MR. BROWN: Yeah. (In Yup'ik)

7
8 INTERPRETER: Recommendation. If you
9 can put a marker on the boundaries, or is that going to
10 be a problem to mark the boundaries to show which one's
11 open and which one's closed out there on the coast
12 during fishing time. Some of the people don't know
13 that there's 1,000 yard. We ask to have it marked and
14 then we could see that. We could see the boundaries so
15 we wouldn't make any -- break any regulations or
16 anything like that. That the markers are very helpful
17 to show us where -- which one's open. These ones that
18 are marked with GPS should have markers on them, too,
19 to show where they can hunt.

20
21 Thank you.

22
23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Do you get the
24 question.

25
26 MR. JONES: Through the Chair. I think
27 so.

28
29 So this hunt in particular, this moose
30 hunt, has a lot of landmarks, like Ishkowik up to
31 eastern portion of Dall Lake over to the lake just
32 above Nunap, and then following the Johnson River up to
33 behind Kalskag area. So it has a lot of landmarks. We
34 do provide some GPS coordinates to people for those
35 that are interested, but you probably don't need a GPS
36 if you know the landmarks already. We tried to pick
37 popular landmarks to help.

38
39 And the other issue is it's such a big,
40 long -- it's over 100 miles long, it would be really
41 hard for us to mark that border with flyers or signs or
42 anything.

43
44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay.

45
46 MR. BROWN: (In Yup'ik)

47
48 INTERPRETER: When I travel down to the
49 Lower 48, I always see everything's pretty much marked.

50

1 We thought we'd -- or, of course, our -- we can --
2 everything is marked where parks and everything, you
3 know, where we can't enter, where we can enter. That
4 was just my thoughts so that, you know, people will
5 know where they're going, see where it's open and
6 closed, not open.

7
8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Anything else
9 for the Department.

10
11 (No comments)

12
13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If not, then thank you
14 very much, and we'll call on the Service next. The
15 Fish and Wildlife Service.

16
17 MR. STAHLNECKER: We have no comment.

18
19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: No comments from Fish
20 and Wildlife Service. Any tribal or village
21 corporations. Village comments, Eva.

22
23 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. I
24 just checked to see if there's any village or tribal
25 representatives here that would like to address this.

26
27 Tim had addressed it at the outset. Do
28 you have anything for ONC? No.

29
30 I don't see any in the room. Again,
31 the tribal consultation, Ohagamiut Tribal Council said
32 they supported any opportunity for increased
33 subsistence opportunity.

34
35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Are there other
36 regional corporation comments.

37
38 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and.....

39
40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I'm sorry, other
41 Regional Council.

42
43 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. So
44 again the Bering Sea AC did review this proposal, WP18-
45 29, and they are in support of WP18-29 with a vote of
46 10 to zero.

47
48 The Bethel AC also did take this up.
49 Alissa thought that she would be back here this

50

1 afternoon. I don't see her here now. The Bethel AC
2 also took up a number of these proposals as well, and
3 Alissa would need to speak to their actions, so maybe
4 she'll join us before we get to the end of the
5 discussion here, but we don't have their written
6 comments.

7
8 And there were no SRCs that spoke to
9 this proposal.

10
11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Fish and Game
12 advisory committees.

13
14 MS. PATTON: That was it. The Bering
15 Sea again had supported this proposal, and then as
16 Alissa had noted earlier, there weren't written
17 comments coming from the -- oh, there she is just in
18 the nick of time.

19
20 So, Alissa, we're on WP18-29, which was
21 to extend the moose season by -- there you go.

22
23 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
24 Thank you, Eva.

25
26 On behalf of Bethel Advisory Committee,
27 they went in support unanimously for to lengthen the
28 moose season by one month, mainly due to weather and in
29 accessibility to the moose. So extending this
30 proposal, it would give more opportunity for people to
31 harvest moose when there's actually snow on the ground
32 and they wouldn't beat up their vehicles.

33
34 Thank you.

35
36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Alissa.

37
38 Is there any -- do we have a
39 subsistence resource committee.

40
41 MS. PATTON: There are no SRC comments
42 on this proposal.

43
44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Summary of
45 written comments.

46
47 MS. PATTON: And no written public
48 comments.

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Regional
2 Council recommendation. What is the wish of the
3 Council concerning WP18-29, lengthening moose season by
4 one month, Unit 18 remainder. Mr. Aloysius.
5
6 MR. ALOYSIUS: I move that we adopt
7 WP18-29 as written.
8
9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion's been made by
10 Mr. Aloysius to adopt and support Proposal No. 18-19.
11 Do I hear a second.
12
13 MR. BROWN: Second.
14
15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Seconded by Mr. Brown.
16 Any further discussion.
17
18 (No comments)
19
20 MR. ULAK: Question.
21
22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Question's called for.
23 Roll call vote, please.
24
25 MR. ULAK: Dale Smith.
26
27 MR. SMITH: Yes.
28
29 MR. ULAK: Michael Peters.
30
31 MR. PETERS: Yes.
32
33 MR. ULAK: John Andrew.
34
35 MR. ANDREW: Yes.
36
37 MR. ULAK: James Charles. William
38 Brown.
39
40 MR. BROWN: Yes.
41
42 MR. ULAK: Annie Cleveland.
43
44 MS. CLEVELAND: Yes.
45
46 MR. ULAK: Dorothy Johnson.
47
48 MS. JOHNSON: Yes.
49
50

1 MR. ULAK: Raymond Oney.
2
3 MR. ONEY: Yes.
4
5 MR. ULAK: Robert Aloysius.
6
7 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yes.
8
9 MR. ULAK: David Bill.
10
11 MR. BILL: Yes.
12
13 MR. ULAK: Myself, yes. Lester Wilde.
14
15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes.
16
17 MR. ULAK: All in favor.
18
19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion's passed
20 unanimously.
21
22 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
23 Motion passes unanimously with those present. If we
24 could have a few words of the Council's justification.
25 There was some discussion earlier, but for the record
26 Council's justification for supporting the motion.
27
28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: A good justification
29 is that, you know, since we've gotten that amount of --
30 the growth of the moose on the Yukon River has gone --
31 has grown a lot larger than we expected to when we
32 first started out the seven-year moratorium on the
33 Yukon River many years ago, and it's good to see that
34 we're getting to much of them now. And we've always
35 had the policy coming from the Yukon when we started
36 this is with the idea of all subsistence users whether
37 we're on the Kuskokwim or the Yukon or anywhere within
38 the area and in reach of this moose are always welcome
39 to come up and supply them, get themselves that protein
40 that we needed that we worked so hard to try and get
41 this moose population to get to the point where it's
42 beyond our expectation, which is very good.
43
44 And now we are down to item No. 2018-
45 30, shorten season and decrease harvest limit and
46 possession limit for ptarmigan in Unit 18. And I
47 believe Mr. Andrew wanted to speak on that.
48
49 MR. T. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr.
50

1 Chairman. I'm going to introduce myself a little bit
2 different for the record. My first given name in
3 Yup'ik was Kunguk and Aalaak. That's what my mother
4 named me when I was born. I was named after people
5 that have died on -- or passed on with that name. My
6 taxpayer name, the one that they collect taxes with and
7 retirement and whatnot is Timothy Andrew. And I'm
8 employed with the Orutsararmiut Native Council.

9
10 And it was under the direction of the
11 ONC Subsistence Committee that we read this proposal to
12 you. And what the proposal seeks to do is to reduce
13 the hunting season from, excuse me, March 31 until May
14 30th, and also reduce the bag limit as well from a
15 total of 50 ptarmigan per day down to 15 ptarmigan per
16 day and 100 in possession to 30 in possession.

17
18 The ptarmigan used to be extremely
19 abundant according to some of the interviews that we've
20 done primarily with the local people. They were saying
21 back then, back in the earlier days the abundance of
22 caribou -- or not caribou, but the ptarmigan was so
23 great that the willows along the Kuskokwim River used
24 to turn white during the springtime. People would be
25 travel up and down the Kuskokwim, it would be all white
26 there would be so many. But over the years, due to
27 whatever circumstances had occurred, be it climate
28 change or perhaps decreased snow conditions or
29 something is happening out there, but over the years
30 that our hunters have witnessed, they've seen a
31 tremendous decline in ptarmigan, and especially this
32 past spring when they had the opportunity to go out and
33 try to get ptarmigan, encountering very, very few of
34 them in the traditional hunting areas. We don't know
35 what exactly is happening, but we feel that there has
36 to be a precautionary action that has to occur to
37 protect the population that we have, and to protect the
38 population of them going into further decline.

39
40 It is an extremely important
41 subsistence species to our tribal membership. And it
42 is also a huge contributor to food during the
43 springtime.

44
45 With that, Mr. Chair, the ONC has
46 submitted this proposal utilizing the precautionary
47 management principles.

48
49 Forgive me, my eyes are -- I have
50

1 cataracts and I can't read very well.

2

3 But we request this decrease in the bag
4 limit, but some of the Fish and Game Advisory committee
5 meetings that I've attended, they've offered
6 modification to this proposal to keep the season the
7 same, primarily because of at various parts of the Unit
8 18C these ptarmigan, you know, up in Kalskag, they
9 probably see them early in the spring, but as they
10 migrate and follow the snow to the coastal areas, and
11 the coastal areas probably see them like on May 30th.
12 We would support that modification, but request that
13 the bag limits be reduced.

14

15 And I believe that is it.

16

17 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

18

19 And I'd be happy to answer any
20 questions.

21

22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any questions for Tim
23 from the Council.

24

25 Mr. Aloysius.

26

27 MR. ALOYSIUS: Quyana. Because, you
28 know, ptarmigan is one of the mainstays at home in the
29 springtime, but in the last 10 years we haven't seen
30 any upriver. You know, I'm glad that somebody's taking
31 the time to write up a proposal to reduce the harvest
32 and the time of harvest.

33

34 I remember about 10 years ago there was
35 a proposal to increase that possession -- I mean,
36 increase the number of days, and I said, hey, no, we
37 can't do that, we're going down. And I'm glad that you
38 guys brought it up again. And you have my 110 percent
39 support on this one.

40

41 MR. T. ANDREW: If I may respond, Mr.
42 Chair. Yeah, it was our ONC Subsistence Committee that
43 directed our department to put forward this proposal.

44

45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Any other
46 questions for Tim.

47

48 Mr. Ulak.

49

50

1 MR. ULAK: Yes. That's very true. On
2 ptarmigans in our area, what used to be many back then,
3 they're really declining in numbers. You have to go
4 further up north if not around Mountain Village or St.
5 Mary's to look and find them. That's very true.
6 They're probably somewhere. I mean, I don't know.
7 It's hard to say.

8
9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, we've had the
10 same problem on the -- we've had the same problem
11 around our area. The ptarmigan that used to be there
12 are not there any more, and we know that has something
13 to do with global warming and all the other problems
14 that we're having with mother earth. So I'm glad
15 somebody's putting something forward to the effect of
16 protecting that. It's our mainstay of our daily lives
17 out there in the wintertime when we don't have our
18 grocery shop open, we've always got the ptarmigans out
19 there out in the field.

20
21 Thank you, Tim.

22
23 I'm lost now.

24
25 (Laughter)

26
27 MS. WORKER: Mr. Chair. I could
28 present the proposal to the Council now.

29
30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: What's that?

31
32 MS. WORKER: I could present the
33 proposal and the analysis to the Council.

34
35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes, you may.

36
37 MS. WORKER: Okay. Thank you. So as
38 Mr. Andrew said, WP18-30 was submitted by ONC out of
39 concern that the ptarmigan in the area are declining.
40 And so they're requesting that the ptarmigan season be
41 shortened, so basically taking away the months of April
42 and May from the season, and that the harvest limit be
43 reduced from 50 per day, 100 in possession to -- sorry,
44 50 per day, 100 in possession reduced to 15 per day, 30
45 in possession.

46
47 So the Unit 18 ptarmigan populations
48 are not currently being surveyed, so we don't have any
49 numbers about what's going on out there, but we do

50

1 believe that as you all have said the ptarmigan
2 abundance is on the decline. That's based on local
3 observations. We do know that the abundance does
4 fluctuate with prey and predator populations, and also
5 that there's this migration from the interior regions
6 to the coastal regions as the snow melts.

7
8 And, of course, the harvest trends
9 follow the birds. And so we know that inland harvest
10 occurs earlier and near the coast that harvest, it
11 occurs later in the spring.

12
13 Estimates of ptarmigan harvests are
14 pretty variable. Since 2002 the estimate has ranged
15 from fewer than 10,000 birds to nearly 34,000 birds.
16 So that's a lot of variation. And it's really
17 difficult to predict what these proposed changes will
18 have on the ptarmigan population, but recognizing that
19 the population had probably declined, and also
20 recognizing that the coastal communities may need this
21 as a subsistence resource in order to provide continued
22 opportunity.

23
24 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
25 support WP18-30 with modification to retain the current
26 season, so the season would be open August 10th through
27 May 30th, but to change the harvest and possession
28 limits as requested to 15 per day and 30 in possession.

29
30 Thank you.

31
32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Any
33 comments from the tribes concerning this proposal.

34
35 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. We
36 had received information from the Native Village of
37 Nunapitchuk. Generally they were in -- they had a
38 blanket support for this proposal and others, but there
39 were no specific comments regarding this proposal from
40 the tribal consultation.

41
42 Thank you.

43
44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Any
45 reports from any ANCSA corporations. Comments.

46
47 MS. PATTON: No ANCSA corporation
48 comments either on this proposal.

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Alaska
2 Department of Fish and Game. Any comments on this
3 proposal, 29 -- 18-30, I'm sorry.

4
5 MR. JONES: Mr. Chair. Thank you.
6 Again for the record my name is Patrick Jones with Fish
7 and Game. I'll try and summarize these, because our
8 comments are very similar to the ones you just heard
9 from OSM and from Tim at ONC.

10
11 As everybody in this region that lives
12 here has observed over the last few years -- well,
13 basically from the long spring we had a few years ago,
14 the way the winter lasted an extra month, ptarmigan
15 numbers appear to have gone down. However, we don't
16 have any surveys of population estimates to verify
17 that. We just have our observations, but it's pretty
18 consistent across the country. Everybody's seeing the
19 same thing it sounds like.

20
21 And we also know that traditionally the
22 ptarmigan migrate in the spring. They start interior
23 by Kalskag and come out of the mountains and they -- as
24 the snow melts, they kind of work their way out to the
25 coast, so the coastal people are the last people to see
26 them. And for that reason, we'd recommend caution when
27 considering shortening the season, because if you
28 shorten the season, it affects who gets to hunt them
29 more than anything else, what villages have
30 opportunities and which ones don't.

31
32 And while based on research we've done
33 on ptarmigan in other areas of the state we know that
34 mortality on ptarmigan in the springtime when they're
35 breeding can influence the population, the cost benefit
36 to changing the season versus the affect on that, it's
37 probably more appropriate not to change the season at
38 this point in time.

39
40 So I guess from some of this, so if
41 adopted, this proposal would shorten ptarmigan season
42 and reduce the daily bag limit for anyone hunting
43 ptarmigan under Federal regulations in Unit 18.
44 However, Federally-qualified subsistence users would
45 still be authorized to hunt under State regulations
46 until May 15th.

47
48 For conservation issues, currently,
49 like I said, there's not abundance estimates for
50

1 populations on rock ptarmigan or willow ptarmigan, the
2 two species that we primarily have out here. Right now
3 we don't have any research being conducted; however,
4 local Department Staff and residents have observed the
5 same change as everybody else here has seen and talked
6 about.

7
8 Right now the Department's
9 recommendation is neutral at this time without
10 population estimates. And we're just going to stay
11 neutral at this time on whether it's appropriate to
12 change the season or the bag limit.

13
14 And I'm willing to answer any questions
15 you might have.

16
17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any questions from the
18 Council.

19
20 Robert.

21
22 MR. ALOYSIUS: Not a question, but an
23 observation. You know, I grew up between Aniak and
24 Kalskag, and every spring the islands used to be white.
25 And, you know, contrary to many people's belief, the
26 ptarmigan were way up in McGrath, doing the same thing.
27 And when I moved down here, I didn't see any ptarmigan.

28
29 And so observation is a good way to
30 determine how many ptarmigan there are. And in the
31 last 10 years there hasn't been any in the river,
32 upriver. And contrary to what people think, ptarmigan
33 don't migrate. You know, there's tundra between
34 Kuskokwim River and Whitefish Lake, and in those areas
35 over there, those ptarmigan nest over there, so they
36 don't go anywhere else to nest. And I know that in the
37 Kotlik area they do the same thing. They don't migrate
38 to nest. They're not a migratory bird.

39
40 And if you want to make regulations,
41 you know, you better listen to the people who are from
42 the area, because they hunt, fish, and trap in that
43 area, and they know what the birds and animals are
44 doing. And so you just can't say, well, we don't have
45 any proof that the population is down because you don't
46 have anybody doing surveys. And the people who are
47 doing surveys are the people who hunt, so listen to
48 them.

49
50

1 Thank you.

2
3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you Mr.
4 Aloysius. Go ahead.

5
6 MR. JONES: Thank you. Mr. Aloysius,
7 maybe I should rephrase my statement. We believe the
8 population is down. We just don't believe it's to the
9 point that hunters are affecting it. We don't believe
10 hunters are the reason it's down.

11
12 Based on our research in other areas of
13 the state, it's probably more likely due to the
14 winters. What we were seeing in other areas of the
15 state where we have marked ptarmigan is these winters
16 when we don't have any snow and the tundra's brown, and
17 the birds are white, two things are happening. One
18 thing is the predators are getting them, so the hawks
19 and the owls kill a lot more. And the second thing is
20 when there's snow, the ptarmigan at night bury
21 themselves in the snow to stay warmer, and when there's
22 no snow, they have a hard time getting thermal
23 protection, so they're out spending a lot more energy
24 trying to stay warm. And it's harder for them to have
25 a winter with no snow for those two reasons. And
26 that's probably affecting it a lot. And the other
27 thing -- and we're going on five, six years with very
28 little snow to no snow.

29
30 And the other thing we've noticed is an
31 old ptarmigan is three years old. They don't live very
32 long. So you get a couple of bad years and you have a
33 high mortality on ptarmigans in the winter, it takes
34 time for that population to build back up. And we just
35 haven't had very good winters for them.

36
37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other questions.

38
39 (No comments)

40
41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There being none,
42 thank you. Next is Fish and Wildlife Service. Any
43 comments.

44
45 MR. STAHLNECKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
46 Ken Stahlnecker with the Fish and Wildlife Service.

47
48 We have similar comments to what have
49 already been made. I think as has been pointed out, we
50

1 really have very little empirical data at this point
2 indicating what the true numbers of the ptarmigan are,
3 but based on observation, as has been pointed out, it
4 certainly appears like we're seeing more -- I mean
5 fewer ptarmigan than we have in the past. So we do
6 feel like a cautious approach is appropriate.

7
8 However, we feel that the proposal
9 that's presented because of the fact that for a
10 significant period of the season there is an overlap in
11 State and Federal regulation, that the proposal would
12 really have very little beneficial affect on the
13 ptarmigan population, because as again has been
14 mentioned in the analysis, hunters would be able to
15 hunt using State regulation and still harvest the full
16 50 per day and 100 in possession bag limit. It would
17 only be during the last 15 days of the season, from May
18 15th to May 30th, that the reduced bag limit would be
19 in place. So that's one concern that we raise is that
20 I'm not that it would have a true beneficial affect.

21
22 I think the second point that we would
23 like to make is that while there currently is some
24 inconsistency between the state regulation where that
25 goes through May 15th, and currently Federal regulation
26 goes through May 30th, by implementing this proposal,
27 it's going to add another level of inconsistency
28 between State and Federal regulation, because again now
29 suddenly on those last 15 days of the season, you go
30 from a 50 per day, 100 in possession down to 15 per day
31 and 30 in possession.

32
33 So we're always looking for ways to try
34 to simplify and be as consistent as we can between
35 State and Federal, and there's just some concerns that
36 for the user on the ground this is moving in a
37 different direction there.

38
39 So while I would say we're neutral on
40 the proposal, I just wanted to point out some of those
41 issues for the Council to deliberate on as you're
42 thinking about this. And perhaps something to consider
43 would be coordination with the Board of Game in looking
44 at ways to try to bring the regulations from both State
45 and Federal a little more in alignment, and again at
46 the same time perhaps look at implementing, you know,
47 measures that might take a more cautious approach
48 towards harvest of ptarmigan.

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Any
2 questions for the -- go ahead, Mr. Andrew.

3
4 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
5 Just an observation I have over the last maybe last 10
6 to 12 years. The last time I've seen good flocks up in
7 the foothills beyond Pink (ph) is old mine area in the
8 Speedy Mountain area, there were a lot of ptarmigans
9 out in the area. That was about 9, 10 years ago.
10 Riding out in there for caribou, we saw caribou signs.
11 There's quite a bit of ptarmigan in that towards
12 spring. There's a lot of snow at that time. But the
13 last six, seven years we have been having hardly no
14 snow, but out there we see some kind of those long-
15 tailed hawks go after them when there's no snow.
16 They're highly visible. The same with snowy owls.
17 I've seen them get them. And I've caught snowy owls
18 with their pouch full of ptarmigan, because they're
19 really easily seen when there's no cover for them,
20 because the snow does two things. It camouflaged them
21 and it gives them shelter. They bury themselves. When
22 there's no snow other predators get to them real easy,
23 especially if they're bedded down at night, too.

24
25 And we usually start seeing them
26 migrate -- I've seen a lot of them up the creek.
27 Starting around mid 1950s I used to be up there with
28 along with my Dad and my family. We used to go up
29 there always every spring. Every spring we'd see a lot
30 of them up the Eek River, Kwethluk, and the Kasigluk.
31 Those three rivers. They winter starting from
32 September all the way to early part of April; then they
33 start migrating down here. Most of them now migrate
34 towards the coast. And then starting in September they
35 go right back up there. The young go back up there to
36 winter up there.

37
38 Last year I didn't even get to get one.
39 It's been too rough for our snowmachines and
40 fourwheelers to go out there, too.

41
42 Thank you.

43
44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other questions or
45 comments for the Fish and Wildlife. Just a minute.
46 There's a question over there from one of our
47 interpreters, if you may, just one minute.

48
49 MR. NICHOLAI: Hi. David Nicholai.
50

1 I'm the translator, and I also work as a tribal
2 administrator back in Atmautluak.

3
4 Just this spring one of my tribal
5 members luckily caught 11 ptarmigans. And then of
6 those 11 ptarmigans, you know, the wife proudly worked
7 on it, cut it up to get it prepped to put in the
8 freezer. While she was working on it worms, she
9 noticed worms in the stomach. Of the 11 ptarmigans
10 they caught, 4 of them had worms, some sort of worm in
11 their stomach. I didn't know who to tell, or if it
12 would have any affect on the ptarmigan populations.
13 But we called Office of Environmental Health to tell
14 them that they founds in the stomach. I didn't know if
15 there was anything done about it. I don't know if it
16 was only from only from Atmautluak they found them, but
17 I'm pretty sure they found them in other villages, too.
18 We didn't know what those worms were, but that was the
19 first time they ever seen them in the stomach. So I
20 just thought I'd throw that in.

21
22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I've lived 77 years in
23 Alaska. I've never ever heard of worms in stomach of
24 ptarmigan before. This is something new.

25
26 Any other comments concerning the
27 proposal from any tribal village or other comments.
28 Alissa. Eva.

29
30 MR. T. ANDREW: Orutsararmiut.

31
32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Orutsararmiut has
33 comment. Did you have a comment? But Alissa does
34 concerning.

35
36 MS. ROGERS: Can I do Bethel AC first,
37 then mine or do mine first, then Bethel?

38
39 MS. PATTON: We can go ahead and do AC
40 first and then we'll do public comments.

41
42 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
43 On behalf of Bethel Advisory Council, we went ahead and
44 supported this proposal, but it fell short. The
45 proposal was supported with four -- passed with four,
46 and we had three that abstained, because of the dates
47 to remain the same so that coastal villages had an
48 opportunity to continue to hunt. And they did a long
49 discussion of the herd and declining populations for

50

1 this proposal.

2

3

And then now do I do mine later?

4

5

6

MS. PATTON: And we'll do the Bering
Sea AC and then we'll get to public.

7

8

9

CHAIRMAN WILDE: No, go ahead. We're
right on it. Why don't you go ahead with tribal.

10

11

12

MS. ROGERS: Bering Sea has their turn.

13

14

15

16

17

18

MS. PATTON: Just very quickly. So
Bering AC also took up this proposal. And the Bering
AC was in support of 18-30, with 11 support and zero
no.

19

20

21

22

23

And that concludes AC comments. There
were no subsistence resource commission comments. And
there are no public written comments on this one which
brings us to public testimony.

24

25

26

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes. Thank you.

27

28

29

30

MS. PATTON: Thank you.

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

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40

41

42

43

I'm bringing this proposal forward
because we have seen declines in ptarmigan, and we also
had multiple reports from hunters and people talking
with people about hunting this season and the last
season has been consistent over the past couple years.
For the effects of the ptarmigan, the arrival of
ptarmigan during the mating season has been very
important, including changes in winter from weather.
There hasn't been any snowfall to protect the
ptarmigans. And when hatchlings are learning to fly,
we also have to protect them. It's another way to
increase abundance population for the ptarmigan.

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

In 1990 we used to have a 20-day
possession limit on the ptarmigan, and we also had a
season from August 10 through April 30th. I don't mind
seeing the same August 10th to April 30th to stay
consistent, but we need to continue to decrease the

1 population abundance on the ptarmigan. I understand
2 that we do have a migratory system where the ptarmigan
3 may not be flying through at those certain times, based
4 on my research, trying to find out specifically about
5 Ptarmigan and what we can do to increase the
6 population, those dates that were suggested in this
7 proposal were the best dates that we could provide in
8 protection for these ptarmigan.

9
10 Now, in 2011 in the increase due to
11 Chinook salmon restrictions and people not being able
12 to get their amount of Chinook salmon, I believe that
13 in remembering you guys discussed the ptarmigan,
14 because of that, then we were going to increase the bag
15 limits to level out the fact that people weren't
16 getting their king salmon.

17
18 This would be a way to increase the
19 population and protect them, to rebuild the population
20 as well.

21
22 In addition to the cautionary approach
23 for the research that would be to follow this proposal,
24 because it's a start, and we have to start somewhere.
25 And as the Feds said, that, you know, there really no
26 point in putting this proposal forward, because they're
27 going to go off the State regulations, but we have to
28 put our foot down somewhere, and this would be a first
29 start. Of course, we would like to go on both State and
30 Federal sides, but because of the cycles are different,
31 an example that Board of Game cycle doesn't come
32 through until I believe 2019?

33
34 Eva, correct me if I'm wrong. Is that
35 2019 for the Board of Game cycle?

36
37 MS. PATTON: 2020

38
39 MS. ROGERS: 2020. Okay. So 2020 is
40 the next time we'll be able to pull up this proposal.
41 There is going to be an identical proposal that will be
42 following through to the State Board of Game. The same
43 exact proposal with the same exact language will be
44 going forward to the State Board of Game, but because
45 this is our cycle in this year for the wildlife on the
46 Federal side that's why this proposal has been put
47 forward.

48
49 I also wanted to say that at the same
50

1 time with the cycles we will be able to get the
2 proposals in. So whatever you guys decide here, we'll
3 be backing up that proposal to go to the State.

4
5 Thank you.

6
7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Any
8 questions for Alissa.

9
10 (No comments)

11
12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Do we have
13 any summary of written comments.

14
15 MS PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
16 There were no written comments for this proposal.

17
18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Regional Council
19 recommendations on Proposal 18-30, shortening season
20 and decrease harvest limit and possession limit for
21 ptarmigan in Unit 18.

22
23 MR. ONEY: Mr. Chairman. I move to
24 adopt wildlife proposal.....

25
26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: A motion's been made
27 to adopt Proposal 18-30 by Mr. Oney.

28
29 MR. ONEY: Yes. Thank you.

30
31 MR. ALOYSIUS: Second.

32
33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Seconded by Mr.
34 Aloysius. Any further discussion.

35
36 (No comments)

37
38 MR. ULAK: Question.

39
40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Question's called for.
41 Roll call vote please.

42
43 MR. ULAK: Raymond Oney.

44
45 MR. ONEY: Yes.

46
47 MR. ULAK: Dorothy Johnson.

48
49 MS. JOHNSON: Yes.

50

1 MR. ULAK: Annie Cleveland.
2
3 MS. CLEVELAND: Yes.
4
5 MR. ULAK: Dale Smith.
6
7 MR. SMITH: Yes.
8
9 MR. ULAK: Michael Peters.
10
11 MR. PETERS: Yes.
12
13 MR. ULAK: John Andrew.
14
15 MR. ANDREW: Yes.
16
17 MR. ULAK: James Charles.
18
19 MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chairman. I didn't
20 get that proposal, so what was proposal for?
21
22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The proposal is to
23 shorten season and decrease harvest limit and
24 possession limit ptarmigan in Unit 18.
25
26 MR. CHARLES: Okay. I'll say yes.
27
28 MR. ULAK: William Brown.
29
30 MR. BROWN: Yes.
31
32 MR. ULAK: David Bill.
33
34 MR. BILL: Yes.
35
36 MR. ULAK: Myself, yes. Robert
37 Aloysius.
38
39 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yes.
40
41 MR. ULAK: Lester Wilde.
42
43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes.
44
45 MR. ULAK: All in favor.
46
47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion passes
48 unanimously.
49
50

1 And, yes, Ms. Patton.

2
3 MS. PATTON: And, Mr. Chairman and
4 Council, I just wanted to check in. So the proposal as
5 written passes unanimously.

6
7 There was some discussion both from the
8 AC and Tim Andrew from ONC as well as State and Federal
9 agencies that were expressing some concern about the
10 shortening of the season. And so I don't know if the
11 Council had also wanted to address those
12 recommendations for modifications to a proposal. It's
13 at the wish of the Council, but just wanted to clarify
14 that the Council has passed a motion as written.

15
16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The motion passed.

17
18 MS. PATTON: Okay. And if we could
19 again, there was lots of discussion from the entire
20 Council, but if we could hear a brief justification in
21 support of that proposal.

22
23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Do you need a
24 justification?

25
26 MS. PATTON: That would be very
27 helpful. I know there was a lot of discussion here
28 from the Council, but just a justification in support
29 of the proposal as written.

30
31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The justification
32 we're using is the one that Tim put forward.

33
34 Yes, Mr. Andrew.

35
36 MR. T. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
37 Timothy Andrew, ONC.

38
39 Throughout the meetings that I've
40 attended and various testimony and comments that were
41 made on this ptarmigan proposal, there's a lot of
42 concern that the shortening of the season would highly
43 impact the hunting opportunity for people on the
44 coastal communities, because as ptarmigan heads out in
45 that direction, it becomes much later in the season.
46 So that's why historically that season was put out to
47 accommodate hunters along the coastal communities. And
48 I just want to make you aware of that potential impact.

49
50

1 And if you want to fix it, I don't know
2 what the parliamentary procedure would be.

3
4 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Well, if you have any
5 problems with it later, we'll make sure that we get it
6 fixed. Thank you, Tim.

7
8 We are down to item Proposal Number 18-
9 31, shortening caribou season in portions of Unit 18 by
10 15 days. Yes, go ahead with that, Suzanne.

11
12 MS. WORKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

13
14 WP18-31 was also submitted by ONC, and
15 they are concerned about the conservation status of the
16 Mulchatna Caribou Herd, and so they are requesting that
17 the caribou season in Unit 18 be shortened. Currently
18 the season is August 1st through March 15th, and
19 they're requesting that it be shortened from August 1st
20 to February 28th. So that's about 15 days.

21
22 So historically the Mulchatna Caribou
23 Herd has ranged from around 20,000 animals to around
24 200,000 animals. And in recent years it's fluctuated
25 between like 26,000 and 31,000. The most current
26 estimate was obtained in 2016, and the population is
27 currently about 27,000 animals, so that's on the low
28 end of the historical population size, and it's also
29 just below the population objective, which is between
30 30,000 and 80,000 animals.

31
32 In 2016 there were 39 bulls to 100
33 cows, which is the highest bull/cow ratio that's been
34 observed since 2000.

35
36 Almost 50 percent of the reported
37 harvest occurs in the spring, in either February or
38 March. And among Federally-qualified users nearly half
39 of the reported harvest from the Mulchatna herd occurs
40 in Unit 18. So what happens in Unit 18, you know,
41 probably does have an influence on the Mulchatna
42 Caribou Herd population.

43
44 If this proposal was adopted, the
45 Federal season will be shorter than the State season by
46 15 days. So this is sort of the same discussion that
47 we just had with ptarmigan. Since there's nothing
48 preventing Federal users from hunting under State
49 regulation, there isn't expected to be any actual

50

1 affect on harvest. And also no actual affect on
2 subsistence users or opportunity.

3
4 So the main affect of this proposal
5 would simply be to increase the regulatory complexity,
6 which we believe is unnecessary in the absence of a
7 conservation benefit.

8
9 So the OSM preliminary conclusion is to
10 oppose 18-31.

11
12 And that's all I have, but I can take
13 questions.

14
15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: You heard the
16 presentation. Do we have any comments from the tribes.

17
18 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. In
19 terms of tribal consultation, we did not get any
20 specific comments regarding this proposal. Thank you.
21 Or ANCSA consultation comments regarding this proposal.

22
23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead.

24
25 MR. T. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
26 For the record, Timothy Andrew with ONC.

27
28 Once again the ONC Subsistence
29 Committee directed the Natural Resources Department to
30 submit this proposal based on the concern that the
31 Mulchatna Caribou Herd is in further decline from
32 previous years. Many of our committee members and also
33 community members have indicated that on their hunts
34 for caribou they're starting to see very, very few of
35 them that are out there.

36
37 And what the agencies are suggesting is
38 that the population is about 27,000, and the current
39 management objective to manage that population is
40 between 30 to 80,000. What I'm seeing is that the
41 agencies are advocating to continue the hunt with
42 knowingly that the population -- they're below the
43 population objective.

44
45 And if you take a look at Table 1 in
46 the Staff analysis, and this doesn't have a page
47 number, but the bull to cow ratios are currently
48 increasing, which is a really good sign, and hopefully
49 that will lead to better caribou population, better

50

1 productivity in the future. The calf to cow ratio is
2 currently in decline, and that could be due to various
3 reasons that we don't really know anything about, but
4 calves being successfully raised by the cows is
5 extremely important and is a big contributor to
6 increasing the population of the caribou.

7
8 Another component that's really, really
9 important is the large bull composition, because of the
10 female ungulates, whether it be moose, deer, caribou,
11 they prefer the large, great big large breeder bulls
12 when mating. And that suggests a possible increase and
13 is also a good sign.

14
15 But way on the right-hand side, we see
16 a population decline that's happening. And in the
17 overall scheme of things, if you look at 1996 I believe
18 it was, we has 200,000 animals. We've seen that
19 population go really variable. And being currently
20 below the population objective, it's really important
21 that we take a precautionary management approach to
22 ensure the continued sustainability of this herd,
23 because it is so important to lot of people in Unit 18.
24 I know the community of Eek take a huge number of
25 caribou and so do other communities, and Bethel is no
26 different.

27
28 And we don't want to see the caribou
29 population decline any further than it is now. We'd
30 love to see it even above the management objective to
31 allow for more liberal hunts, because that's when
32 everybody is extremely happy and the hunters are happy,
33 the caribou are happy, and thing just seem to go better
34 when there's bigger populations of game.

35
36 And if you take a look at the table 4,
37 the agencies are saying that it's probably not going to
38 have any impact, or the continued hunt during March is
39 not going to have an impact. If you look at the table
40 4 and look at the months on the harvest, the greatest
41 harvest occurs in the month of March. In 2016 there
42 were 27 that were taken in August, 35 in September, 15
43 in October. The least was in November, a total of 6.
44 December, 25. January 26, and in February 59. But the
45 month of March, 114.

46
47 Now, if this proposal were to go into
48 effect, that herd would have that much more caribou to
49 the population, 114 per year, if that was the average
50

1 harvest per year. I know it's a fact that a lot of our
2 tribal members, a lot of our hunters within the area
3 prefer to hunt during those warmer periods.
4

5 And this is an extremely valuable
6 subsistence species, and we would really appreciate
7 your support on this proposal. It's not only for us,
8 but for the rest of the people and also for the
9 resource itself, to protect it and keep it continuously
10 sustainable.
11

12 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
13

14 And that concludes my testimony.
15

16 If you have any questions, I'd be happy
17 to answer.
18

19 CHAIRMAN WILDE:
20

21 (No comments)
22

23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There being none,
24 thank you, Tim.
25

26 Are there any consultation, ANCSA
27 corporations.
28

29 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. No
30 comments specifically from tribes or ANCSA corporations
31 on this proposal.
32

33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. ADF&G. Any
34 comments from the Department.
35

36 MR. RINALDI: Mr. Chair and members of
37 the Council. Thank you for this opportunity. My name
38 is Todd Rinaldi for the record. I'm the regional
39 management coordinator for Region 4 which oversees the
40 management of the Mulchatna herd.
41

42 Much of what the Department has to say
43 today mirrors the Federal comments. After preliminary
44 review, the Department has no conservation concerns
45 associated with this proposal, mostly because it does
46 not provide any clear benefit to the population biology
47 of the Mulchatna or to the Federally-qualified
48 subsistence users.
49
50

1 If the Federal regulations were
2 shortened, they would be out of alignment with State
3 regulations and add to regulatory complexity while
4 allowing a resident to still hunt the longer period
5 under State regulations.

6
7 The reported harvest on the Mulchatna
8 Caribou Herd is well below the harvestable surplus
9 indicating that this herd could increase under the
10 present seasons and bag limits. Harvest is not meeting
11 ANS, because the herd has migrated to more inaccessible
12 parts of its range, not because of hunting regulations,
13 therefore the Department does not see this change as
14 necessary for an increasing population or to achieve
15 harvest objectives in the future. Additionally,
16 Federally-qualified subsistence users will still be
17 able to hunt on Federal lands in Unit 18 under State
18 regulations until the close of the State season.

19
20 Thank you.

21
22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Any
23 questions for the Department.

24
25 (No comments)

26
27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There being none,
28 thank you. Fish and Wildlife Service.

29
30 MR. REARDEN: Hi. This is Spencer
31 Rearden, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service here at the
32 Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge.

33
34 So some of you probably remember, we've
35 been here before talking about the concerns over
36 caribou and reducing a bag limit or a season. So first
37 off, we're neutral on this, but we do share the
38 concerns. Since I moved back to Bethel, I've had those
39 concerns, and hence why we went through this the first
40 time around. At that time, we do believe our harvest
41 was beyond what was considered surplus animals,
42 because, if you remember, we had good snow conditions
43 five, six years ago, and harvest began in early
44 November -- or mid November and continued all the way
45 into March.

46
47 And we do also know that compliance
48 with reporting harvest is an issue out here. It has
49 been for quite a while. And so it's hard to determine

50

1 where our harvest really is. But as many of you know,
2 our harvest, or the amount of harvest we have out here
3 is conditional on snow conditions. The last four years
4 I believe harvest is probably low, because we hadn't
5 had access to the caribou who were up the Kwethluk
6 River. Or very limited access. So what that means is
7 we have high harvest in some years and we have low
8 harvest in others, and most of it's based on access to
9 the caribou as determined by snow conditions. The last
10 four winters harvest had to be low. I mean, there's
11 times where they'd come low enough and near the trails
12 that were kind of ice trails and people were getting
13 them; and there were other times where they're behind
14 Pinky's and further back that we couldn't get to them,
15 because of the rough conditions.

16
17 We still feel that concern, because our
18 level is still below management objective. And, yes,
19 it's difficult to determine where hunting harvest is
20 having an affect on these animals, but we don't have a
21 handle on hunter harvest either, so we share those same
22 concerns. However, as we learned from last time, we
23 changed the regulation on the Federal side of thins,
24 where we had the season two weeks shorter than the
25 State season before. But it made no difference. We
26 don't think it did, because people had the choice to
27 hunt under the State regulations and continue to hunt
28 until into March whereas before it was -- I believe it
29 ended at the end of February some time. And so a
30 number of years later when we realized nothing was
31 going to be changed as far as the State side of things,
32 we changed the regulation back, because it made no
33 sense. It was just adding to confusion. So we have
34 the concern, but the effectiveness of the proposal may
35 not really be there, so therefore we're neutral on
36 this.

37
38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Any
39 questions for the Fish and Wildlife.

40
41 Yes, Mr. Charles.

42
43 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

44
45 Spencer, how about where are you
46 planning to shorten the caribou season? Front or rear
47 or -- at the end?

48
49 MR. REARDEN: Through the Chair. Mr.

50

1 Charles, the proposal submitted by ONC is asking to
2 have it reduced at the end of the season, which is the
3 time when the majority of the harvest occurs.

4
5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Mr. Brown.

6
7 MR. BROWN: Yeah. Quyana, Chairman.
8 (In Yup'ik)

9
10 INTERPRETER: We have discussed the
11 caribou issue before, and they wanted to shorten the
12 season way back in the day. And now there's a lot of
13 people that are unemployed and we gave credence to
14 those people that do not have any means to harvest,
15 because a lot of the unemployment rate in the villages
16 are pretty high, and sometimes those with the large
17 families, a lot of times they don't have any fresh meat
18 to feed their families in the spring time, and so
19 that's why we gave credence to making the season
20 longer.

21
22 And I didn't really like the shorten
23 the fall hunting for caribou. I didn't really like
24 that, because it didn't give the opportunity for people
25 to harvest them. I didn't really mind shortening the
26 spring season, but in the falltime that's where most of
27 the activities are out in the area, because out in the
28 villages we don't have any Fred Meyer's and we don't
29 have any Safeway with low prices. And I know that the
30 meats that we order from Anchorage are double the
31 price. If we buy meat from Anchorage with the freight
32 charges, by the time it gets to the villages, the
33 prices are double. And so that's why I am thinking
34 that we not forget the unemployment rate out in the
35 villages, because in my opinion, I think that it is --
36 if the falltime is lengthened, it would be good.

37
38 Thank you.

39
40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any comments needed?

41
42 (No comments)

43
44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other questions
45 for the Service.

46
47 (No comments)

48
49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There being none,
50

1 thank you very much.

2

3 Do you have any Native, tribal or
4 village consultation, Eva.

5

6 MS. PATTON: Again, in terms of the
7 tribal consultation with the Federal Subsistence Board
8 and OSM, there were no comments specifically from
9 tribes or ANCSA corporations.

10

11 We'll just check back on teleconference
12 and here in the room if there are any comments from
13 Native village or tribal entities here. Do you have
14 any. Yeah. Go ahead, Tim.

15

16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Who? Oh, Mr. Salute
17 (ph).

18

19 MR. T. ANDREW: Timothy Andrew with
20 ONC.

21

22 I would just like to add onto my
23 testimony that I provided earlier. One of the points
24 is that the majority of the time when Mulchatna Caribou
25 Herd are here, they're primarily on Federal
26 jurisdiction land. They hardly ever go into State
27 jurisdiction lands or the Native corporation land.
28 Only on a very few instances that that ever occurs when
29 they get close by Napaskiak and Eek and Quinhagak, and
30 perhaps Kwethluk and any other communities further up
31 the river. But the majority of time, you know, the
32 Mulchatna Caribou Herd, their range is very, very
33 expansive, and much of it in Unit 18 is they're on
34 Federal land.

35

36 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

37

38 I just want to point that out.

39

40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Tim. Yes,
41 ma'am. Suzanne.

42

43 MS. WORKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
44 would like just to add something to Mr. Andrew's
45 comments just so that the Council understands. It's
46 true that most of the land in Unit 18 is Federal land,
47 but in this case you are eligible to hunt caribou under
48 State regulation on Federal land. The only time you
49 wouldn't be able to is if there was a Federal lands

50

1 closure, and that doesn't exist here. So even though
2 the intent of the proposal is to conserve caribou, it
3 won't have an effect unless people actually stop
4 hunting earlier, and they can still hunt on Federal
5 land under State regulation unless that State
6 regulation changes.

7
8 So I just wanted to make sure that you
9 understood sort of that nuance.

10
11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: InterAgency -- oh, we
12 don't have an InterAgency. Any advisory group
13 comments, other Regional Council comments.

14
15 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
16 Again the Bering Sea AC also discussed Proposal 18-31
17 and voted in support of 18-31 with a vote of 10 for,
18 zero against. There was one absent in that vote, but
19 again they support, Bering Sea AC.

20
21 And then we also have Bethel AC, and
22 Alissa can address Bethel AC.

23
24 MS. ROGERS: Quyana, Mr. Chairman. On
25 behalf of the Bethel Advisory Committee, this is Alissa
26 Rogers.

27
28 We supported this proposal. It came
29 out and fell short again with three in support, two in
30 oppose, and two that abstained from the vote, because
31 they would like the season to stay aligned with the
32 State.

33
34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Are there
35 any subsistence resource comment.

36
37 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
38 There were no SRC comments, and there were no written
39 public comments for this proposal. We did have Alissa
40 again had wanted to address the Council under public
41 testimony.

42
43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you.

44
45 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Eva. Thank
46 you, Mr. Chairman.

47
48 On behalf of the caribou out here, we
49 personally wanted to -- a group of hunters and I were
50

1 wanting to make sure that we protect the caribou,
2 because they're such an important resources to our
3 area. And there was many concerns and phone calls that
4 were received and reports about the caribou and
5 people's harvesting, having to hunt harder, go longer
6 distances, beat up their engines if they wanted to go
7 hunting. And a lot of people didn't go hunting,
8 because there was no snow, bad conditions. There was
9 only ice, or you would really beat up your machines, or
10 come to find out a couple years ago every time we went
11 caribou hunting, there was three to four snowmachines
12 alongside the trail, because they broke down trying to
13 chase after caribou.

14
15 So by shortening, due to the decline of
16 caribou migrating through here, because they're going
17 other elsewhere for easier access instead of going
18 through the rough terrain reported by multiple hunters
19 who are also having to travel further and chase them
20 across rough terrain, which shortening the longer
21 distances. In other words, there's a lot of sloppy
22 hunting. And as Yup'iks that protect and support and
23 conserve our food that we subsistence we're not sloppy
24 hunters. We don't go out there and we shoot from long
25 distances or chase our food. We wait patiently and we
26 take care of our food and make sure we hunt properly.
27 That's how we do our hunting. And because there's been
28 reports of sloppy hunting, because people are having to
29 chase the caribou through the -- I don't know the term
30 for it, the English term for it, but (on Yup'ik), the
31 heads where the grass come together and it's really
32 rough in terrain. I don't know the English name.
33 Hassock?

34
35 MR. T. ANDREW: Hummock.

36
37 MS. ROGERS: Hummock. The hummock or
38 Hassock terrain. People are having to go through
39 those, and the caribou are being pushed through these
40 terrain that are causing them to use more energy, which
41 is causing them to become skinny, and people are
42 hunting these caribou and reporting that their caribou
43 are really skinny, and there's hardly any fat.

44
45 And the majority of the time that
46 people go hunting at that time is because they're fat,
47 they're abundant. We use their fat for a lot of food
48 sources. So by the amount of caribou that is being
49 caught, people are having to -- wanting to catch more
50

1 because of the caribou meat is so lean.

2

3 Another would be that since we had the
4 decrease in Chinook salmon, the increase in other areas
5 of harvesting for other than Chinook salmon, there has
6 been an increase in harvesting that hasn't been
7 reported to Fish and Game and U.S. Fish and Wildlife of
8 how much caribou have actually been caught. People are
9 going out there and hunting these animals without --
10 outside of the actual time.

11

12 So by putting this proposal in, we want
13 to protect and increase the caribou, cautionary
14 measures to have a start. And again this is one of
15 those proposals that we've seen that aren't on the
16 regulatory cycle. For instance, again this is another
17 Board of Game cycle. In 2020 that will be supported as
18 is. We will be putting in again with the shortening of
19 the dates due during the heavy hunting seasons to help
20 the caribou survive. And in addition, this would be
21 addressed with recommendation from the AC and all the
22 other recommendations previously on this proposal will
23 also be put forward to the Board of Game.

24

25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Any
26 questions for Alissa.

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There being none,
31 thank you, Alissa.

32

33 Is there any written public comments,
34 Eva.

35

36 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. No
37 written public comments.

38

39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any public testimony.
40 Is there any public testimony on 18-30.

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Anyone from
45 teleconference, do you have any comments.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There being none, what

50

1 is the recommendation of the Regional Council. Council
2 recommendations. Mr. Aloysius.

3
4 MR. ALOYSIUS: I move that we support
5 WP18-31 as written.
6

7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion's been made by
8 Mr. Aloysius to support WP18-31. Do I hear a second.
9

10 MR. PETERS: Second.
11

12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Seconded by Mr.
13 Peters. Any further discussion.
14

15 (No comments)
16

17 MS. CLEVELAND: Question.
18

19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Question's called for.
20 Roll call vote, please.
21

22 MR. ULAK: Okay. So myself, yes. Dale
23 Smith.
24

25 MR. SMITH: Yes.
26

27 MR. ULAK: Michael Peters.
28

29 MR. PETERS: Yes.
30

31 MR. ULAK: John Andrew.
32

33 MR. ANDREW: Yes.
34

35 MR. ULAK: James Charles.
36

37 MR. CHARLES: Yes.
38

39 MR. ULAK: William Brown.
40

41 MR. BROWN: Yes.
42

43 MR. ULAK: Annie Cleveland.
44

45 MS. CLEVELAND: Yes.
46

47 MR. ULAK: Dorothy Johnson.
48

49 MS. JOHNSON: Yes.
50

1 MR. ULAK: Raymond Oney.
2
3 MR. ONEY: Yes.
4
5 MR. ULAK: David Bill.
6
7 MR. BILL: Yes.
8
9 MR. ULAK: And Lester Wilde.
10
11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes.
12
13 MR. ULAK: Motion's carried
14 unanimously.
15
16 MR. ALOYSIUS: You forgot me again.
17
18 MR. ULAK: Oh, Robert Aloysius.
19
20 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yes.
21
22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Unanimously.
23 Let's have a 10-minute break.
24
25 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
26 Very quickly. Because there wasn't a whole lot of
27 discussion, we heard from Charlie Brown and some of the
28 Council members' observations, but if we could, please
29 get a justification for the Council's support of this
30 motion as written. And all Council members are welcome
31 to contribute to some justification that helps to
32 provide that support.
33
34 Thank you.
35
36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Let us take a 10-
37 minute break.
38
39 MS. PATTON: Can we -- I'm sorry, Mr.
40 Chair. If we could get just a few words from the
41 Council on their support for this proposal before we
42 break.
43
44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Anyone
45 volunteer on justification for this proposal. Mr.
46 Aloysius, what is your justification.
47
48 MR. ALOYSIUS: I thought we were on
49 break.
50

1 (Laughter)

2

3 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. If
4 you would before we break, because the Council just
5 took action, so that the Board understands why the
6 Council was in support of this proposal. Your feedback
7 and justification is critical. And anyone is welcome
8 to provide that justification from the Council.

9

10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Anyone want to
11 volunteer for the.....

12

13 MS. PATTON: We don't need to put you
14 on the spot there, Bob.

15

16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Anyone want to come up
17 with justification for the vote on Proposal 18-31.

18

19 MR. CHARLES: It's to.....

20

21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead, Mr. Charles.

22

23 MR. CHARLES: Okay. Thank you, Mr.
24 Chairman. When I saw this proposal, I was -- what came
25 into my mind was to change the front or at the
26 beginning or at the end, because there are two things.
27 I was moose hunting up to my camp last year, and when I
28 saw the caribou tracks right there by my camp, I was
29 glad. I shoot some, because I did not catch a moose up
30 there at my camp, because my camp is way over there at
31 the Kilbuck Mountains. And I did not catch a moose
32 that season.

33

34 So what I thought was that time -- I
35 mean, when I saw this proposal that my question was --
36 it came to me right away, up front or in the back, at
37 the end of the season, because when moose hunters don't
38 catch moose, they can back it up with caribou if
39 there's caribou available.

40

41 Thank you.

42

43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Eva, the justification
44 that we -- what came to mind was, you know, in order
45 for us to -- we hunt caribou, and we know what's going
46 on with the herd, so we have an idea of what is being
47 presented. And in order for us to assure that we have
48 the resources in the future, we've got to take a
49 measure of some kind to protect it at this time. Thank

50

1 you.

2

3 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
4 Council.

5

6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: And we'll have a 10-
7 minute break.

8

9 (Off record)

10

11 (On record)

12

13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Call the meeting back
14 to order. At this time we have a couple service awards
15 that we would like to present. Our first award of
16 appreciation goes to Mr. David Bill in recognition of
17 his services, his years of service to the Federal
18 Subsistence Management Program as a member of the
19 Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory
20 Council for the years 2012 to 2015.

21

22 (Applause)

23

24 MR. ALOYSIUS: Speech. Speech.

25

26 (Applause)

27

28 (Photos being taken)

29

30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Did our smiles break
31 any of your cameras?

32

33 (Laughter)

34

35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you.

36

37 (Applause)

38

39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Our next award goes to
40 in recognition for 20 years of serve goes to Mr. James
41 Charles. Mr. James Charles, could you please come up
42 here.

43

44 (Applause)

45

46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: It says, presented to
47 Mr. James Charles in recognition for 20 years of
48 service on the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence
49 Regional Advisory Council, and a lifetime dedication to

50

1 the subsistence in this region. Thank you, James, for
2 all those years.

3
4 (Applause)

5
6 MS. PATTON: And, James, we have a
7 special gift for you for your 20 years of service and
8 dedication to all the communities and subsistence.

9
10 MR. ALOYSIUS: Let him turn it where we
11 can't see him.

12
13 (Laughter)

14
15 MS. PATTON: Subsistence way of life.
16 You can use this for your boat, for your plane, for
17 fixing fish racks.

18
19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: And you can use that
20 to extract the porcupine quills out of.....

21
22 (Laughter)

23
24 MR. CHARLES: Quyana.

25
26 (Applause)

27
28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, James.

29
30 All right. We are down to crossover
31 proposals.

32
33 REPORTER: Lester. Thank you.

34
35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We are now down to
36 crossover proposals 21, 8 -- sorry. WP18-21 is a
37 proposal to change harvest limit to two caribou
38 throughout Mulchatna Caribou Herd range and
39 consolidated hunt.

40
41 Ms. Worker, could you please present
42 the proposal.

43
44 MS. PATTON: Lester, did you want to
45 revisit the ptarmigan proposal or.....

46
47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Oh, I'm sorry. I'm
48 sorry. I forgot we were going to revisit the ptarmigan
49 proposal, WP18-30. Mr. Andrew.

50

1 MR. T. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
2 Timothy Andrew. I'll try to get closer without
3 breaking the thing.
4

5 Yeah. As I had indicated earlier, and
6 what I've heard from a lot of the advisory committees,
7 or a couple of advisory committees, and comments from
8 several of the RAC members, the season for ptarmigan is
9 very variable throughout the expanse of Unit 18. When,
10 like for example, the season opens, you might see them
11 in this area, but as the snow decreases and the thaw
12 moves towards the coast, some of the coastal people
13 could possibly be disenfranchised by an early closer, a
14 March 31st closure rather than a May 30th. So in
15 consideration and also concern for people to get their
16 customary and traditional food along the coastal area,
17 a lot of people were asking that the season remain the
18 same, but decreasing the bag limits to conserve and
19 protect the ptarmigan populations in Unit 18.
20

21 And if you can move into that -- in
22 that direction as a RAC, I believe it would benefit us
23 all while conserving the ptarmigan population.
24

25 And if you have any questions, I'd be
26 glad to answer.
27

28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: And was that -- we're
29 going to put that in the proposal as an addendum or
30 what do you call that?
31

32 MS. KENNER: Mr. Chair.
33

34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: What is that?
35

36 MS. KENNER: Hi. This is Pippa Kenner,
37 and for the record, I'm with OSM.
38

39 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
40 adopt the proposal with modification to lower the
41 season and possession limits, but to maintain the
42 season, which is what he just said. He just requested.
43 Tim just requested that you adopt the OSM preliminary
44 conclusion.
45

46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. You heard the
47 -- what is the procedure we use on this? I'm not a
48 parliamentarian.
49
50

1 MS. PATTON: And, Mr. Chair and
2 Council, I will do my best in this circumstance also.
3 What I believe the Council can do, so the Council has
4 already supported Proposal WP18-30 as written. And
5 what I believe the Council may be able to do if you
6 want to consider the modification to that proposal,
7 which was the request was the modification was to
8 support the bag limit, but maintain the seasons. And
9 again the discussion, the concern was with the
10 migration of the ptarmigan to the coastal areas that
11 the coastal communities may be inadvertently impacted.
12 And Tim may be able to speak more to their modification
13 that they were requesting and OSM was requesting.

14
15 MR. T. ANDREW: Yeah. Mr. Chairman.
16 With my limited knowledge of the Robert's Rules of
17 Order, I believe the process that needs to occur to
18 bring the proposal back to the table is for
19 reconsideration, and one of you would have move, you
20 know, I move to reconsider Proposal No. WP whatever,
21 and then when you're going to make the motion to -- or
22 somebody's got to make a motion to amend the proposal
23 to reflect the retention of the current season, and
24 just decreasing the bag limit. And I believe that will
25 be the fix.

26
27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. The prevailing
28 side needs to recall the motion.

29
30 MR. T. ANDREW: Which is all of you.
31 It passed unanimously.

32
33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The maker of the
34 motion was -- who was the prevailing motion -- who made
35 that motion? Who made that motion?

36
37 Bob made the motion.

38
39 MR. ALOYSIUS: So what do you need me
40 to do?

41
42 MS. PATTON: The motion to adopt
43 Proposal 18-30 was made by Ray Oney and a second by Bob
44 Aloysius. And so the procedures would be if the
45 Council wishes to reconsider, if Raymond Oney wanted to
46 bring that, the motion to reconsider Proposal 18-30,
47 the Council would vote on that reconsideration, and if
48 the reconsideration is supported, the Council would
49 then make a motion if you wanted to support the
50

1 proposal with the modification.

2

3 MR. ONEY: Okay. I so move on the
4 first motion, to raise the motion.

5

6 MR. ALOYSIUS: Second.

7

8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: You would like to
9 reconsider the motion by -- and seconded by Mr.
10 Aloysius is okay. Do I need a motion on the floor for
11 that -- a vote on the floor for reconsideration? Yes,
12 we do. All in favor of reconsidering the motion
13 for.....

14

15 MR. ULAK: 18-30.

16

17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Proposal 18-30 signify
18 by saying aye.

19

20 IN UNISON: Aye.

21

22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: All opposed same sign.

23

24 (No opposing votes)

25

26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion's carried so we
27 are now in reconsideration of WP18-30 to shorten the
28 season and decrease harvest limit and possession limit
29 for ptarmigan in Unit 18. And we would like to -- put
30 words into my mouth, Eva, please.

31

32 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
33 And Tim can help us out here in terms of the intent.
34 The motion would be to support 18-30 with a
35 modification to maintain the bag limit as proposed, but
36 -- to change the bag limit as proposed, but to
37 maintain the season.

38

39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Maintain, yes.

40

41 Yes, Mr. Andrew.

42

43 MR. T. ANDREW: Yeah. Thank you,
44 Chair. Perhaps a motion that would read just as it
45 says on the OSM preliminary conclusion. You know, a
46 Council member may do this. I move to support WP18-30
47 with the OSM preliminary conclusion. That would
48 reflect the retention of the season, but still retain
49 the decreased bag limit.

50

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Any
2 Council member would like to reinstate that motion.
3 Mr. Oney.
4

5 MR. ONEY: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
6 Chairman. I move to adopt with amendment Wildlife
7 Proposal 18-30 to shorten the bag limit and to keep the
8 season as it is.
9

10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: You heard the motion.
11 Do I hear a second. Second to the amendment to the
12 motion.
13

14 MR. CHARLES: Second.
15

16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Seconded by Mr.
17 Charles. Any further discussion on the amendment to
18 the motion.
19

20 MR. ALOYSIUS: What's your amendment?
21

22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The amendment is to
23 retain the dates and to shorten the possession.
24

25 MR. ALOYSIUS: Could you put numbers on
26 there, because the motion is not clear as to what the
27 numbers are.
28

29 MR. ONEY: Yeah. Mr. Chairman. I
30 think the bag limit will be shortened from -- where is
31 it. 50 to 15, yes.
32

33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Possession.
34

35 MS. PATTON: And also shorten from 100
36 in possession to 30 in possession.
37

38 MR. ONEY: Uh-huh.
39

40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Is everybody clear on
41 the amendment. The amendment is to keep -- to retain
42 the dates, opening dates, and to shorten -- and to
43 lessen the possession.
44

45 MS. PATTON: Correct. So just to help
46 restate, so the Council was making a motion to support
47 the reduction in the bag limit from Unit 18, 15 per day
48 -- 50 to 15 per day, from 100 in possession to 30 in
49 possession, but to maintain the season dates.
50

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes. You heard the
2 amendment. Any question on the amendment.
3
4 (No comments)
5
6 MS. PATTON: And, Council, if I could
7 again, justification for the Council's recommendation
8 to make this change.
9
10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes.
11
12 MS. PATTON: Thank you.
13
14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any further questions.
15 Any further discussion.
16
17 (No comments)
18
19 MR. ULAK: Question.
20
21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Question on the
22 amendment. All in favor of the amendment signify by
23 saying -- let's have a roll call vote on the amendment.
24
25 MR. ULAK: Okay. The amendment on
26 WP18-30. Let's start with John Andrew.
27
28 MR. ANDREW: Yes.
29
30 MR. ULAK: James Charles.
31
32 MR. CHARLES: Yes. Yes.
33
34 MR. ULAK: William Brown.
35
36 MR. BROWN: yes.
37
38 MR. ULAK: Michael Peters.
39
40 MR. PETERS: Yes.
41
42 MR. ULAK: Dale Smith.
43
44 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. I
45 just got a text from Dale. He had to step out, so he
46 won't be voting on this proposal.
47
48 MR. ULAK: Myself, yes. Annie
49 Cleveland.
50

1 MS. CLEVELAND: Yes.
2
3 MR. ULAK: Dorothy Johnson. Raymond
4 Oney.
5
6 MR. ONEY: Yes.
7
8 MR. ULAK: David Bill.
9
10 MR. BILL: Yes.
11
12 MR. ULAK: Robert Aloysius.
13
14 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yes.
15
16 MR. ULAK: Lester Wilde.
17
18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes.
19
20 MR. ULAK: All in favor.
21
22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion passed, all in
23 favor of the main motion. A roll call on the main
24 motion. The main motion was to shorten the season and
25 decrease harvest limit and possession limit for
26 ptarmigan in Unit 18. We need to have another vote on
27 the main motion.
28
29 MS. PATTON: So Mr. Chair and Council.
30 So the Council made a motion that included that
31 amendment, so you voted to.....
32
33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Actually we just voted
34 on the amendment and then now we're voting to the main
35 motion.
36
37 MR. ULAK: It was a vote on the motion.
38 His motion.
39
40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: On his amendment.
41
42 MR. ULAK: On his motion.
43
44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: On his amendment,
45 yeah.
46
47 MR. ULAK: Yeah, it's in here, yeah.
48 We just.....
49
50

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: With the main motion?

2

3 MR. ULAK: Yeah.

4

5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Then I stand to
6 be corrected. Sorry about that.

7

8 MS. PATTON: But a justification from
9 the Council for that amendment would be very helpful.

10

11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Could we same
12 justification we just gave you just a while ago?

13

14 MS. PATTON: If you could repeat that
15 for me, please, so that it's clear I the discussion on
16 changing -- before the Council had supported changing
17 the seasons and now the Council is going with the
18 amendment to maintain the seasons.

19

20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Well, our
21 justification would be that, you know, that we do as
22 hunters and subsistence users of the resource, have
23 noticed that there is increase -- or decrease in
24 available resource, and we feel that the future of that
25 resource should be cared for for our people that are
26 going to be coming in after us.

27

28 MS. PATTON: And others can also
29 support. Thank you.

30

31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes, Mr. Bob Aloysius.

32

33

34 MR. ALOYSIUS: Tim's recommendation
35 that we don't put a hardship on the people on the tail
36 end of the season.

37

38 CHAIRMAN ALOYSIUS: Okay. Okay. We
39 are going to continue on with our agenda. We are down
40 to Proposal No. 18-21, change harvest limit to two
41 caribou throughout Mulchatna Caribou Herd range and
42 consolidated hunt. Ms. Worker, you've got the floor.

43

44 MS. WORKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So
45 these last wildlife proposals are crossover proposals,
46 and so just a reminder, these are proposals that are
47 from other regions, but they're in areas where at least
48 some users from Unit 18 have a customary and
49 traditional use determination, so at least some of you

50

1 are eligible to hunt in these areas, and so that
2 entitles you to give a recommendation to the Federal
3 Subsistence Board.

4
5 So the first one is WP18-21, and this
6 was submitted by the Bristol Bay Subsistence Regional
7 Advisory Council. This analysis got a little
8 complicated, and I'm going to try to keep it brief, but
9 if you need more information, I'll do my best to help
10 you understand it.

11
12 So there are basically two parts to
13 this request. The first part of the request is that
14 the harvest restrictions be eliminated in Units 9A, B
15 and C, 17A, B, and C, and 19A and B for Mulchatna
16 caribou. So this would result in a simple harvest
17 limit of two caribou rather than the current harvest
18 limit of two caribou with the restriction that not more
19 than one may be a bull, and not more than one may be
20 taken between August 1st and January 31st.

21
22 So it would basically make the harvest
23 limits and restrictions throughout the rest of the
24 Mulchatna herd range the same as they are in Unit 18.
25 It would result in consistent regulations throughout
26 the range of the herd and it would also result in
27 consistent State and Federal harvest limits and
28 restrictions, because the State changed these in 2016.

29
30 So that's the first part of the
31 request. The second part of the request is that the
32 season in the portion of Unit 9C that drains into the
33 Naknek from the north, so that's the central portion of
34 Unit C, be changed from a may-be-announced season with
35 a harvest limit of one bull to an August 1st to March
36 15th season with a harvest limit of two caribou. And
37 that is consistent with the proposed changes in the
38 rest of the Mulchatna Caribou Herd range.

39
40 So the area that we're talking about is
41 right at the margin of the Mulchatna Caribou Herd range
42 and the Northern Alaska Peninsula Caribou Herd range.
43 And these changes would essentially shift the
44 regulatory emphasis from the Mulchatna Caribou Herd --
45 sorry, from the Northern Alaska Peninsula Caribou Herd
46 to the Mulchatna Caribou Herd. So currently the
47 regulations are written as if that area is occupied
48 primarily by the Northern Alaska Peninsula herd, and
49 the request is to write them so that they're occupied
50

1 primarily by the Mulchatna herd.

2

3 And I do want to note that this change
4 has also been submitted to the Board of Game for
5 consideration. It's a rare year for Bristol Bay
6 proposals when both the Federal cycle and the State
7 cycle are lined up. And so the proponent's goal was to
8 make this change concurrently on both the Federal and
9 the State regulations.

10

11 So as I mentioned earlier the current
12 population estimate for the Mulchatna Caribou Herd is
13 at the low end of the historical range. As far as the
14 Northern Alaska Peninsula herd goes, this is a small
15 population. It was about 3,000 caribou in 2015, and
16 this is well below the population objective of 12,000
17 to 15,000 caribou. But this proposal would only affect
18 the very northernmost portion of that herd's range, and
19 they haven't been occupying that part of the range in
20 recent years at all.

21

22 And so as far as the first part of the
23 proposal goes, the part that deals with aligning the
24 Mulchatna Caribou Herd regulations, there would be no
25 effect on the Mulchatna Caribou Herd or on subsistence
26 users who use the Mulchatna Caribou Herd. And this is
27 because the proposed changes have already been made in
28 State regulation, and all subsistence users are
29 required to use a Sate registration permit already.

30

31 As far as the second part goes, there
32 really aren't expected to be any effects either since
33 the Northern Alaska Peninsula Caribou Herd doesn't use
34 the area that we're talking about currently.

35

36 One complication that I do want to make
37 you aware of with this proposal is that the request is
38 to add the central portion of the Unit 9C into the hunt
39 area that's called the Alagnak drainage, and that is
40 going to result in some regulatory inconsistencies
41 between the hunt areas as a result of Federal lands
42 closures. So I can give you more details if you want
43 them, but the short story is that there really needs to
44 be a third hunt area created for this to happen. It
45 won't have any functional affect on the intent of the
46 proposal, but as a technicality, that's the right way
47 to do it. And so when you're considering your motion,
48 I would urge you to consider the creation of a third
49 hunt area. And that is reflected in the OSM

50

1 conclusion.

2
3 So the OSM preliminary conclusion is to
4 support WP18-21 with modification to create a new hunt
5 area in the portion of 9C that drains into the Naknek
6 River from the north to accommodate an existing lands
7 closure, to change the may-be-announced season in this
8 area to an August 1st to March 15th season with a
9 harvest limit of two caribou contingent upon the Board
10 of Game making the same change at their February 2018
11 meeting.

12
13 That's an unusual modification for us,
14 but because the proponents specifically requested
15 parallel changes in State and Federal regulation, we
16 think it's prudent to watch what the Board of Game does
17 on this one.

18
19 To delegate authority to the Alaska
20 Peninsula and the Becharof National Wildlife Refuge to
21 open and close the season and to set harvest limits,
22 including sex restrictions if a new hunt area is
23 designated. So that gives the manager the flexibility
24 to manage that new hunt area if indeed it is created.

25
26 And then finally to retain the language
27 in the Unit 19A and B regulation specifying that
28 residents of Lime Village are authorized to hunt under
29 an existing community hunt only.

30
31 So that's all I have for that. If you
32 would like me to give you some more details, I can.

33
34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any questions for Ms.
35 Worker.

36
37 (No comments)

38
39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you for your
40 introduction and presentation. And we are going to go
41 on down to any consultation from the tribes.

42
43 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
44 There were no tribal or ANCSA comments on this
45 proposal.

46
47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Is there any comment
48 from the Department of Fish and Game.

49
50

1 MR. RINALDI: Thank you, Chairman Wilde
2 and members of the Council. The Department of Fish and
3 Game hasn't identified any conservation issues with
4 this proposal. The current Federal regulation
5 established when the bull to cow ratio was below
6 management objectives for the Mulchatna Caribou Herd
7 and the restriction placed on the bag limit for bulls
8 was implemented to increase the bull to cow ratio. The
9 strategy did lead to the achievement of the bull to cow
10 ratio of 35 to 100 bulls in the herd from 2014 to 2016
11 with a 18-year record high of 39 bulls to 100 cows in
12 2016. Reaching this objective prompted the recent
13 change in 2016 under Alaska State regulations where the
14 bag limit was liberalized to provide more harvest
15 opportunity.
16

17 In regards to the new hunt area, you
18 know, as was previously stated, the area 9C was
19 previously closed due to conservation concerns of
20 additional harvest on the Northern Alaska Peninsula
21 herd. Movement data, collar data that we have on the
22 Mulchatna and on the Nelchina -- Nelchina. I
23 apologize. The Northern Alaska Peninsula herd
24 demonstrates that the NAP herd, the Northern Alaska
25 Peninsula herd, is not using this area and is no longer
26 crossing the river. So during winter when some of this
27 opportunity is available only Mulchatna animals are
28 available.
29

30 And also as previously stated, this
31 will be a Board of Game Proposal No. 127.
32

33 Thank you.
34

35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Any
36 questions for the Department. Mr. Charles.
37

38 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
39 Were does these Mulchatna herd calf at?
40

41 MR. RINALDI: Currently the Mulchatna
42 herd is calving in a couple of different areas. It's
43 been highly variable. It's changed over the last
44 number of years to a considerable degree. There are
45 some calving areas on this side of the mountains.
46 There's also concentration of calving just on the other
47 side of the Wood Tikchik. There are calving
48 concentrations up near Tundra Lake over near Lake
49 Clark. And some areas to the south where they
50

1 typically ave calved, they are no longer calving.

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other question.

4

5 (No comments)

6

7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There being none,
8 thank you. Fish and Wildlife Service.

9

10 MR. STAHLNECKER: No.

11

12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: No comment. Tribal
13 and village or other comments.

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: No village or others
18 wanting to comment on it.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Other regional
23 corporations.

24

25 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. No
26 comments from regional corporations.

27

28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Fish and Game advisory
29 committees. Any comments.

30

31 MS. PATTON: I believe the Bethel AC
32 did take up WP18-21. So the Bering Sea did not take up
33 WP18-21. Bethel AC.

34

35 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
36 This is Alissa Rogers.

37

38 The Bethel Advisory Council or
39 Committee for this proposal, it was all in support
40 unanimously. And the justification was they wanted it
41 aligned with the State. I believe it's the State
42 regulations.

43

44 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

45

46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Alissa.

47

48 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
49 This was a proposal submitted by the Bristol Bay

50

1 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council. They have not
2 met yet, and so we don't have recommendations from the
3 Bristol Bay Council. Again, this is a crossover
4 proposal, but we don't have comments back from other
5 Regional Advisory Councils at this time.

6
7 MR. CHARLES: Lower Kuskokwim also have
8 not met yet. Thank you.

9
10 MS. PATTON: Thank you.

11
12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, James.

13
14 Any public comments, or public written
15 testimony.

16
17 MS. PATTON: No public written
18 comments.

19
20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you.

21
22 MS. PATTON: No public testimony.

23
24 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Regional Council
25 recommendations.

26
27 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
28 I just got off the phone with Frank Woods, who's the
29 Chairman I believe or Chairman of the Bristol Bay
30 Advisory Committee I believe with Fish and Game. And
31 also Hans Nicholson, who's a previous Chairman of the
32 advisory committee down in Bristol Bay. And they both
33 insisted that as long as the proposal is to benefit the
34 people, and as long as people Federally-qualified meet
35 the criteria, that they would ask for support for this
36 proposal as well as I do to help the people and the
37 beneficial of following through with aligning the
38 Federal and State regulations for that area.

39
40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Alissa.

41
42 Any Regional Council recommendations.
43 Regional Council, what is your wish. Mr. Ulak.

44
45 MR. ULAK: Mr. Chairman. I would like
46 to move to support the proposal WP18-21.

47
48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion's been made by
49 Mr. Ulak to adopt, support.....

50

1 MR. ALOYSIUS: Second.
2
3 CHAIRMAN WILDE:18-21. Do I hear
4 a second.
5
6 MR. ALOYSIUS: I did.
7
8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Seconded by Mr.
9 Aloysius. Any further discussion.
10
11 (No comment)
12
13 MR. ULAK: Question.
14
15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Question's called for.
16 Roll call vote, please.
17
18 MR. ULAK: Dorothy Johnson.
19
20 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
21 Dorothy just called to notify us she's on the plane and
22 hopes to be here. So she won't be able to vote at this
23 time.
24
25 MR. ULAK: Annie Cleveland.
26
27 MS. CLEVELAND: Yes.
28
29 MR. ULAK: Myself, yes. Dale Smith.
30
31 MS. PATTON: And Dale Smith.....
32
33 MR. ULAK: Michael Peters.
34
35 MR. PETERS: Yes.
36
37 MR. ULAK: John Andrew.
38
39 MR. ANDREW: Yes.
40
41 MR. ULAK: James Charles.
42
43 MR. CHARLES: Yes.
44
45 MR. ULAK: William Brown.
46
47 MR. BROWN: Yes.
48
49 MR. ULAK: David Bill.
50

1 MR. BILL: Yes.
2
3 MR. ULAK: Raymond Oney.
4
5 MR. ONEY: Yes.
6
7 MR. ULAK: Robert Aloysius.
8
9 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yes.
10
11 MR. ULAK: Lester Wilde.
12
13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes.
14
15 MR. ULAK: All in favor.
16
17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion's carried
18 unanimously.
19
20 MS. PATTON: And again, Mr. Chair, a
21 few words of justification for the Council's support.
22
23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Justification. Who
24 made the motion. You got justification for the motion.
25
26 MR. ULAK: On the current one we just
27 voted on?
28
29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Uh-huh.
30
31 MR. ULAK: Well, Mr. Chairman, the
32 WP18-21 was to support a proposal with modification to
33 create a new hunt area, which is Unit 9C.
34
35 MS. PATTON: Just a few words of
36 support of why the Council was in support of this
37 proposal.
38
39 MR. ALOYSIUS: Which one?
40
41 MS. PATTON: The Council just took
42 action on WP18-21, and just a few words to help clarify
43 the Council's support, a few words of justification.
44
45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Anyone.
46
47 (No comments)
48
49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Well, it's the same as
50

1 the one Ann stated before. We've noticed -- you know,
2 we as hunters usually notice a lot of changes that are
3 going on within the resource that we're hunting. And
4 since there has been some concern on the caribou herd
5 in our area, and they do have a concern down there, I
6 think whatever we can do to help them to help retain
7 their resource for the future generations is what we
8 would like to do to help. Do whatever we can do to help
9 the subsistence people who depend on the subsistence
10 resource of that area.

11
12 Thank you.

13
14 We are down to 18-23. The proposal is
15 to add residents of Units 9C and 9E to customary and
16 traditional use determination for caribou in Units 17A
17 and 17C. I think it might be a good idea -- I think,
18 this is my own opinion is that we deal with resources
19 in Unit 18. And I think Unit 17A and 17C, that those
20 residents of 9C and 9E should probably go to the
21 Council that serves that area. And is that our region
22 also?

23
24 MS. WORKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
25 do have an update on 18-23.

26
27 So as I mentioned earlier, a crossover
28 proposal is a proposal where users from this area have
29 a customary and traditional use in another area, in
30 another region. And even though 18-23 is on your
31 agenda, it's a mistake. It's not actually a crossover
32 proposal for this Council. So that's just an error
33 that we made. So you actually don't need to hear that
34 proposal, and we apologize for that mistake.

35
36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. So we don't
37 need to act on this proposal.

38
39 MS. WORKER: You do not need to act on
40 18-23, that's correct.

41
42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you very much.
43 We are going down to 18-25/26, establish.....

44
45 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman. Mr.
46 Chairman.

47
48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes, Mr. Aloysius. I
49 am trying to.....

50

1 MR. ALOYSIUS: I move that we do not
2 take any action on WP18-23.

3
4 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion's been made not
5 to take any action on 18-23. Do I hear a second to the
6 motion.

7
8 MR. PETERS: Second.

9
10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other discussion.

11
12 (No comments)

13
14 MR. ULAK: Question.

15
16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Question's called for.
17 All in favor signify by saying aye.

18
19 IN UNISON: Aye.

20
21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: All opposed same sign.

22
23 (No opposing votes)

24
25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion's carried.

26 Thank you.

27
28 We are down to WP18-25/26, to establish
29 a new hunt area and may-be-announced season for moose
30 in Unit 17C. Ms. Worker, you have the floor.

31
32 MS. WORKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

33
34 WP18-25 and 26 were submitted by
35 Kenneth Nukwak of Manokotak. And so these proposals
36 are about moose in the portion of Unit 17C west of the
37 Weary River. This is the westernmost portion of Unit
38 17C where it's adjacent to Unit 17A.

39
40 WP18-25 requests that the current
41 December 1st to 31st season be restructured as a may-
42 be-announced season that can be opened for up to 31
43 days between December 1st and the last day of February.

44
45
46 Proposal 18-26 requests that the
47 current August 20th to September 15th season be shifted
48 five days later to August 25th to September 20th. It
49 also requests that the current September 1st through
50

1 15th season which allows the harvest of one antlered
2 bull with some antler restrictions by harvest ticket be
3 extended to September 1st through 20th. So basically
4 this proposal is asking for season dates in Unit 17C
5 that are more similar to those that exist in 17A, the
6 adjacent hunt area.

7
8 The moose dynamics in Unit 17A are
9 quite a bit different than they are Unit 17C however.
10 In Unit 17A moose are relatively new to the area and so
11 they're still exploiting previously unused habitat, and
12 there's a lot of potential for growth of this
13 population. The moose population in Unit 17C is not as
14 productive, so it requires a bit more cautious approach
15 to harvest.

16
17 In 2014 the moose population in 17C was
18 estimated to be between 3200 and 4800 moose, which
19 spans the upper limit of the State's intensive
20 management objective, but the local managers have
21 expressed concern about shifting the season back just
22 because the bulls become so much more vulnerable as
23 they enter the run. And they believe that the current
24 harvest level is appropriate for the population and
25 that there's a risk that more harvest will be
26 detrimental to the herd.

27
28 Most of the reported harvest within
29 Unit 17 comes from Unit 17C, and most of that is taken
30 by local residents, primarily by residents of
31 Dillingham. About 80 percent of the local harvest
32 occurs in August and September, so this area at this
33 time of year does get quite a bit of use. So that
34 amount of use combined with the increased vulnerability
35 of bulls later in September suggests that if this
36 proposal is adopted, harvest in the area is likely to
37 increase, and it's not clear that the moose population
38 in Unit 17C can sustain that additional harvest without
39 any detrimental affects. So the most conservative
40 approach is just to maintain the status quo. Just to
41 leave things like they are.

42
43 So the OSM preliminary conclusion is to
44 oppose WP18-25/26.

45
46 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

47
48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Ms. Worker.

1 You heard the presentation. Any
2 consultation from the Council, tribes.

3
4 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
5 There were no comments from tribes or ANCSA
6 corporations.

7
8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: ADF&G. Any comments
9 on this proposal.

10
11 MR. RINALDI: Thank you, Chairman Wilde
12 and members of the Council. For the record again, my
13 name is Todd Rinaldi. I'm a regional management
14 coordinator for Region 4 which oversees the moose
15 populations in this area.

16
17 The moose population affected by this
18 proposal in the area of 17C appears to be stable or
19 possibly decreasing based on moose abundance surveys.
20 The bull to cow ratio cannot be measured due to the
21 lack of snow prior to antler loss. It's a problem that
22 a lot of our Staff are dealing with statewide.

23
24 The proposed season structure will
25 attract a lot of hunters, and would increase the moose
26 harvest by providing more hunting opportunity when
27 bulls are most vulnerable to harvest. The likelihood
28 of harvesting cows will also be increased during this
29 winter season. The combination of these factors may
30 result in a harvest that is not sustainable and may
31 affect recruitment as well as bull to cow ratios in the
32 future.

33
34 Thank you.

35
36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Any other
37 questions -- is there questions for the Department.

38
39 Mr. Aloysius.

40
41 Mr. Aloysius: Yeah. I thought we were
42 talking about August and September. That's not
43 wintertime.

44
45 MS. WORKER: Through the Chair.
46 There's two proposals analyzed in this analysis. One
47 of them is about the winter season. The request is to
48 change the December 1st to 31st season, to restructure
49 that as a may-be-announced season that could be opened
50

1 for up to 31 days between December 1st and the last day
2 of February. So what that would potentially do is it
3 would create an opening during a time when conditions
4 were favorable, which would favor additional harvest.

5
6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other questions.

7
8 (No comments)

9
10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Aloysius, are you
11 done?

12
13 MR. ALOYSIUS: No. I.....

14
15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Are there any other
16 questions from any other Council members while they're
17 having.....

18
19 MR. RINALDI: Mr. Chairman. Can I help
20 clarify? So it's proposal -- did you get it? Okay. I
21 was just going to suggest that, through the Chair,
22 Member Aloysius, the proposal 25 seeks to extend a
23 winter season. Proposal 26 is that summer season -- or
24 the fall season that you're referencing there. So my
25 understanding is we were tackling both at once.

26
27 Thank you.

28
29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other discussion
30 -- or questions, I'm sorry for the Department.

31
32 (No comments)

33
34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There being none,
35 thank you. Fish and Wildlife Service.

36
37 MR. STAHLNECKER: No comments.

38
39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Right up your alley.
40 Right in your back yard, right?

41
42 MS. HENRY: Mr. Chairman. Yes. And
43 members of the Council. It is. It's Unit 17 in kind
44 of our back hard. And Togiak Refuge opposes this
45 proposal for the reasons given. The moose are really
46 different between 17A and C. They're in different
47 stages, and the proponent is wanting to maybe change
48 the rules to the more liberal way that 17A is treated,
49 but the 17C moose won't be able to tolerate that.

50

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: And Togiak opposes
2 the.....
3
4 MS. HENRY: Togiak Refuge opposes it,
5 yes.
6
7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Any questions
8 for the Service.
9
10 (No comments)
11
12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There being none,
13 thank you very much.
14
15 MS. HENRY: I don't think I said my
16 name. I'm Susanna Henry, Refuge manager at Togiak
17 Refuge.
18
19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes, and I apologize
20 for not introducing you.
21
22 MS. HENRY: No, I should have.
23
24 CHAIRMAN WILDE: It must be getting
25 that time of the day. And thank you.
26
27 Do you have any other tribes -- tribal
28 or other -- anybody.....
29
30 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. I
31 don't believe -- if we have anyone on line.
32
33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Anybody here on the
34 audience who'd like to address this proposal.
35
36 (No comments)
37
38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Tim, do you have any?
39
40 MS. PATTON: Any comments from tribal,
41 village or other.
42
43 (No comments)
44
45 MS. PATTON: No.
46
47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There being none,
48 we'll continue on.
49
50

1 MS. PATTON: And again for the other
2 Regional Councils, so other Councils have not yet taken
3 up this proposal, so we have no comments there. The
4 Bering Sea Fish and Game Advisory Committee took no
5 action on 18-25 and 26.

6
7 And I'll let Alissa Joseph address 18-
8 25/26 for the Bethel AC.

9
10 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
11 This is Alissa Rogers with the Bethel Advisory
12 Committee.

13
14 We as well took no action unanimously
15 on this, Mr. Chairman and Council. No action.

16
17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Do you
18 have a summary of written comments, public comments.

19
20 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
21 There were no written public comments for this
22 proposal.

23
24 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any public -- okay.
25 We are down to Regional Council recommendations.
26 Council members, what's your recommendation. Mr. Ulak.

27
28 MR. ULAK: Mr. Chairman. My
29 recommendation would be to take no action on this
30 proposal.

31
32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: And that's a motion?

33
34 MR. ULAK: Yes.

35
36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion by Mr. Ulak to
37 take no action on Proposal 18-25/26.

38
39 MR. ANDREW: Second.

40
41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Seconded by Mr.
42 Andrew. Any further discussion.

43
44 (No comment)

45
46 MR. ULAK: Question.

47
48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Question called for.
49 Roll call vote, please.

50

1 MR. ULAK: No action taken, you don't
2 need to vote.

3
4 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. I'm sorry. All
5 in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

6
7 IN UNISON: Aye.

8
9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: All opposed same sign.

10
11 (No opposing votes)

12
13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion carried. It
14 must be getting to be about that time of the day.
15 Let's take a five-minute break. Let's take a five-
16 minute break.

17
18 (Off record)

19
20 (On record)

21
22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We are down to WP18-
23 33/36. Ms. Worker, you've got the presentation?

24
25 MS. WORKER: Yes, sir. WP18-33 was
26 submitted by the Western Interior Regional Advisory
27 Council, and they request that the Unit 21E moose
28 season be shortened by 12 days from the current season,
29 which is August 25th to September 30th to September 1st
30 to September 25th. WP18-36 was submitted by the
31 Grayling, Anvik, Shageluk, Holy Cross Fish and Game
32 Advisory Committee, and they request the same season
33 changes with the additional that a State registration
34 permit be required.

35
36 The proponents of both of these
37 proposals wish to reduce user confusion by aligning the
38 State and Federal fall moose seasons in Unit 21E. And
39 this can be an important consideration in units like
40 21E where there's a checkerboard land status between,
41 you know, Federal and non-Federal lands.

42
43 The Unit 21E moose population has
44 increased recently and is currently meeting the
45 population objectives. In 2016 the estimated
46 population density was two moose per square mile, and
47 in the last decade the bull/cow ratios have been good,
48 averaging 56 bulls per 100 cows. And the calf/cow
49 ratios have been good as well, averaging 42 calves per
50

1 100 cows.

2

3 If we combine the reported harvest with
4 household survey data, the harvest is estimated to be
5 340 moose annually. The last time that was calculated
6 was in 2006, but that is within the target harvest
7 objectives for this population.

8

9 Adoption of these proposals would
10 result in alignment of Federal and State moose seasons
11 in Unit 21E during the fall seasons. It would result
12 in a reduction of subsistence opportunity as a result
13 of a shorter Federal season, so the Federal season
14 would be shortened by 12 days; however, the reality is
15 that most of the harvest occurs in the middle of that
16 season, so taking a few days off of the front of the
17 season and a few days off of the back of the season
18 might not really have much of an affect on subsistence
19 users.

20

21 While there isn't a biological need for
22 these changes, they would help ease the confusion about
23 moose hunting in the fall and make compliance easier
24 for Federally-qualified subsistence users. And so
25 similarly requiring a State registration permit would
26 align the State and the Federal permitting requirements
27 for the fall hunt, so that would reduce regulatory
28 complexity and maybe make things a little bit easier
29 for rural users.

30

31 I do want to note that a Federal
32 registration permit would still be required for the
33 winter season on the Federal side. So there's still a
34 little bit of complexity to navigate there, but this
35 proposal would make things simpler for the fall season.

36

37 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
38 take no action on WP18-33, and support WP18-36 with
39 modification just to clarify the language related to
40 the permit requirements and to remove the language
41 referring to permit conditions and season closures for
42 the winter season and instead delegate authority to set
43 permit conditions, announce season closures for the
44 winter via a delegation of authority letter. So again
45 that just gives the Federal manager a little bit of
46 flexibility to manage things on the ground.

47

48 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

49

50

1 That's all I have, but I can take
2 questions.

3
4 CHAIRMAN WILDE: What was that -- I
5 missed something. What was the season were request to
6 shorten to what length?

7
8 MS. WORKER: Yes. Thank you, Mr.
9 Chair. The current season August 25th to September
10 30th. And the request is to shorten it to September
11 1st to September 25th. So the request is to shorten the
12 season by 12 days. Some of that comes off the
13 beginning; some of it comes off the end, but what it
14 would do was it would align the seasons with the State
15 season.

16
17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: That's 33, right?

18
19 MS. WORKER: Yes.

20
21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. And 36 was?

22
23 MS. WORKER: And so 36 is the same. It
24 makes the same request with the addition of requiring a
25 State registration permit.

26
27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Thank you. You
28 heard the presentation. Any comments from ADF&G.

29
30 MR. RINALDI: On the phone.

31
32 MR. PEARSON: Yeah. Hello, Mr. Chair.
33 My name is Josh Pearson. I'm the area biologist for
34 Unit 21E. I live here in McGrath, and I'd be happy to
35 give a few comments.

36
37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: What is your comments.

38
39 MR. PEARSON: Yeah. Okay. Like I said
40 I'm the area biologist for 21E and I just wanted to
41 speak briefly to the proposal.

42
43 This is something that the GASH
44 Advisory Committee has been working towards for quite a
45 few years now. They've made multiple changes to the
46 seasons to get to this point, including the most recent
47 one. They submitted a proposal to the Board or Game
48 this last winter which passed to extend the State
49 season somewhat. The State season used to open on the
50

1 5th of September, but it now opens on the 1st of
2 September. And then part 2 of that was the proposal
3 that you see before you now for the Federal Subsistence
4 Board to consider.

5
6 A few important points to keep in mind
7 here. As was just said in the last presentation, a big
8 part of this was to reduce confusion for the user
9 groups out there. The Federal lands are scattered
10 throughout and can be difficult to access during the
11 fall season via boat. In the winter they're certainly
12 more accessible once you have access to a snowmachine.

13
14 But when you look at the data for the
15 number of moose that are harvested during the
16 shoulders, or the beginning and the very end of the
17 Federal season, it's a very small amount of moose. On
18 average the last three years, only one moose has been
19 shot during that August season which is the 25th to the
20 end of the month, and now the State season opening up
21 on the 1st of September, that's when harvest has --
22 well, actually it's not even started usually until the
23 5th or so for the harvest. When I analyzed the harvest
24 patterns, the bulk of the hunters take their moose in
25 the middle of the month. In general, as you guys know,
26 it's pretty warm in August still, and hunters are real
27 hesitant to shoot a moose when there's a lot of flies
28 and, you know, the temperatures are real high. And
29 then in September, in the latter part of the season,
30 again hunters are a little bit hesitant to shoot moose
31 as, you know, they start to move into the rut. So just
32 to keep in mind that the harvest at the beginning part
33 of the season, like I said, has only been about one
34 moose per year, so very low.

35
36 And then additionally one thing I
37 wanted to mention to you guys, Russian Mission is the
38 only Unit 18 village which has a C&T determination to
39 hunt under the Federal season in 21E. And when I
40 looked at that harvest data, there were only -- in the
41 last three years there's been seven moose killed by
42 people from Russian Mission, and none at all were
43 killed during the early season. So all the moose that
44 they took were during what would have been an open
45 State season as well.

46
47 We have also had a joint State/Federal
48 permit the last two years, which has helped a lot.
49 Before Federal subsistence users had to get a harvest
50

1 ticket and then if they wanted to hunt during the State
2 season on State or private lands, they had to have the
3 registration permit. So two years ago in conjunction
4 with the Innoko Wildlife Refuge we started issuing a
5 joint permit, which I think has been a big success. So
6 now the hunters only have to have one piece of paper
7 which has helped again with the goal of trying to
8 reduce confusion for the users. So that addition that
9 the GASH put in there to make this a joint
10 State/Federal permit would be a good addition.

11
12 And I guess that's all I'll say for
13 now, but I'd be happy to answer questions, too.

14
15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Any
16 questions for the Department, Council members.

17
18 (No comments)

19
20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There being none,
21 thank you.

22
23 MR. PEARSON: You're welcome.

24
25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Are there any comments
26 from the Service, Fish and Wildlife Service.

27
28 MR. STAHLNECKER: No.

29
30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: No comments from Fish
31 and Wildlife Service. Are there any village or
32 corporations here in attendance that would like to make
33 any comment.

34
35 (No comments)

36
37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There being none,
38 Regional Advisory Council.

39
40 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
41 Again one portion of the proposal was submitted by the
42 Western Interior Subsistence Regional Advisory Council,
43 and they did meet yesterday and the day before.
44 However, I have not received any feedback in terms of
45 their discussion or action on this proposal. So we
46 don't have any further feedback other than the proposal
47 that they submitted themselves.

48
49 As far as the AC, it appears that the
50

1 Bering Sea AC took no action on this proposal.

2

3 Did we lose Alissa? Oh, there she is.
4 She's hiding. Alissa can speak to the Bethel AC.

5

6 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
7 Good afternoon. Alissa Rogers, Bethel Advisory
8 Committee.

9

10 And we took in support of this proposal
11 with one in oppose. We had one advisory committee
12 member who likes the longer season who hunts in that
13 area.

14

15 Thank you.

16

17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you.

18

19 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
20 There were no SRC comments on this, and we have no
21 public written comments.

22

23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. What is the
24 Regional Advisory Council's recommendations on Proposal
25 WP18-33.

26

27 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

28

29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes.

30

31 MR. NICHOLAI: I'm sorry, I was hoping
32 to submit public comments (indiscernible -- away from
33 microphones)

34

35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Well, I -- Okay.

36

37 MR. NICHOLAI: David Nicholai. (In
38 Yup'ik)

39

40 INTERPRETER: I am David Nicholai from
41 Atmautluak. And I am translating right now, but I'm
42 also the tribal administrator for Atmautluak.

43

44 MR. NICHOLAI: You don't mind if I do
45 this in Yup'ik? Because I could make my point across
46 better. (In Yup'ik)

47

48 INTERPRETER: Right now you guys are
49 talking about the season, making the season less and

50

1 less, and there are 18,000 residents in the Delta.

2

3 MR. NICHOLAI: They'll tell me there's
4 about 18,000 residents. Just think. Half of those
5 hunting in that short window. (In Yup'ik)

6

7 INTERPRETER: A lot of the people from
8 the tundra villages to up to the Johnson River, and
9 when they come back in the front of the season, they
10 come back and they report that there's a lot of --
11 there are a lot of hunters up there and the Josh River
12 moose are -- they run away from all that noise. And so
13 a lot of people have said that they give us an extra
14 week in August. And they are saying that because they
15 have an extra week opening, it is -- I know that you
16 guys say that we are making a lot of these because of
17 about the high unemployment rate in our areas, and you
18 are always looking out for the people that need that,
19 but in the realities that there are, we cannot really
20 -- \$4 gas and grub and whatever to pay for it to go
21 hunting. So this one week extra really helps us
22 procuring food for the freezer. And so I wanted you to
23 mix that. But out in my village they are saying that
24 when they first open, there are a lot of boats going up
25 the Johnson River, and that noise drives the moose
26 away. And so I do not -- those were my comments. I
27 just want to say thank you.

28

29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other comments.

30

31 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

32

33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Aloysius.

34

35 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you. Proposal has
36 no bearing on Unit 18 at all. And so the Atmautluak
37 people have seven and a half months to hunt. So, you
38 know, it's a point of clarification.

39

40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Council
41 recommendations on Proposal 18-33/36. Shorten season
42 to align with State and require State registration
43 permit for moose in Unit 21E. What is the wish of the
44 Council. If you don't want no action taken.....

45

46 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman. I move
47 that we approve WP18-33 as written.

48

49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion's been made by

50

1 Robert Aloysius to adopt 18-33/36 as written.

2

3 MR. ULAK: He said oppose.

4

5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Oh, you said adopt,
6 didn't you? Didn't you say adopt?

7

8 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yeah.

9

10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: He said adopt.

11

12 MR. ALOYSIUS: Whatever you want to put
13 (indiscernible -- microphone not on)

14

15 (Laughter)

16

17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: On the proposal. So I
18 hear a second to that motion. Is there a second to the
19 motion to adopt Proposal 33/36.

20

21 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. I
22 just want to add we did get the Y-K Delta -- the
23 Western Interior RAC supported the proposal with the
24 OSM conclusion.

25

26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I can't hear you.

27

28 MR. ALOYSIUS: What was that?

29

30 MS. PATTON: I'm sorry. I just wanted
31 for the Council's benefit, we just got the report from
32 the Western Interior RAC supported the proposal with
33 the OSM.....

34

35 MS. KENNER: They supported the OSM
36 preliminary conclusion.

37

38 MS. PATTON: The Western Interior RAC
39 supported the proposal with the OSM preliminary
40 conclusion.

41

42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Any further --
43 are we getting to be close to five. What was that?

44

45 MR. ALOYSIUS: There's no second.

46

47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, that's what I
48 was asking, if there was a second to the motion.

49

50

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If there is no
4 second.....

5

6 MR. ALOYSIUS: The motion dies.

7

8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The motion dies from
9 lack of second.

10

11 We are going down to -- no action on
12 Proposal 18-33/36. You got that noted?

13

14 We're down to Statewide Proposal.
15 After this proposal, we'll be going in and listening to
16 a presentation from the ANSEP student program. And
17 this will be our last proposal for tonight. WP18-51,
18 modify bear baiting restrictions to align with State
19 regulations. Ms. Worker.

20

21 MS. WORKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

22

23 WP18-51 was submitted by the Eastern
24 Interior Subsistence Regional Advisory Council, and
25 they request that the bear baiting restrictions be
26 aligned with the State restrictions -- the State
27 regulations, specifically as they relate to the use of
28 biodegradable materials. The State regulations allow
29 the use of any biodegradable material as bait. So this
30 includes things like dog food, popcorn, old donuts.
31 But the Federal regulations currently only allow the
32 use of the head, bones, viscera, or skin of legally
33 harvested fish and wildlife as bait.

34

35 The Western Interior Council argues
36 that because the Federal regulations are more
37 restrictive than the State regulations, they do not
38 provide a subsistence priority. And they also note
39 that many of the items excluded under Federal
40 regulation are commonly used for bear baiting.

41

42 So there are a couple of recent
43 regulatory changes that are important to this issue.
44 In 2015 the National Park Service published a final
45 rule that prohibited the take of black and brown bears
46 over bait on national preserves when hunting under
47 State regulation. In 2017 the Park Service published a
48 final rule that limited the types of bait that may be
49 used for taking bears under Federal regulations to

50

1 native fish or wildlife remains with a few exceptions
2 for Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve. And
3 so what this means is that for the most part any
4 changes that are made as a result of this proposal
5 wouldn't apply to Park Service lands.

6
7 I also want to note that scent lure is
8 not defined in either Federal or State regulation, and
9 so the consequences of that were discussed in this
10 analysis.

11
12 So if this proposal is adopted,
13 Federally-qualified subsistence users could use any
14 biodegradable material, including scent lures, at
15 registered bear baiting stations on lands administered
16 by the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land
17 Management and the Forest Service, but on National Park
18 Service lands, bait would be continued to be limited to
19 native fish and wildlife remains. And like I said,
20 there's a few exceptions for Wrangell-St. Elias.

21
22 Adoption of this proposal would reduce
23 regulatory complexity and user confusion by aligning
24 State and Federal regulations on most Federal land.
25 Because the requested changes are already permitted
26 under State regulation, there isn't expected to be an
27 effect on the bear population, on harvest, on
28 subsistence users, or on the habituation of bears to
29 human food.

30
31 So the OSM conclusion -- the
32 preliminary conclusion is to support WP18-51 with
33 modification to establish a definition for scent lure,
34 to clarify the regulatory language, substituting the
35 word wildlife for the terms game, fur animals, and
36 small game, because these terms are not defined under
37 Federal regulation, but are included in the Federal
38 definition of wildlife. So those are just a few sort
39 of technicalities, but over all the OSM preliminary
40 conclusion is to support WP18-51.

41
42 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

43
44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Ms. Worker.
45 Introduction and presentation's been
46 given to you. What is the wish -- the report on the
47 consultation of tribes and, Ms. Eva, do you have any.

48
49 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. We
50

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1 did not get any comments on tribal consultation or
2 ANCSA corporation consultation on this proposal. Thank
3 you.

4
5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. ADF&G.

6
7 MR. PERRY: Hi. I'm Phillip Perry.
8 I'm the management coordinator for Region 5, which is
9 western and Arctic Alaska.

10
11 So the State has very similar views
12 that the preliminary OSM recommendations were. This is
13 a proposal that we would support. It aligns
14 definitions so that when people are out doing this
15 activity it's consistent on State and Federal lands.
16 So, yeah, in brief, that's we support it.

17
18 Thank you.

19
20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Any
21 questions for the Department. Mr. Andrew.

22
23 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

24
25 On Page 2 on WP18-51, it says modify
26 bear baiting restrictions to align with State
27 regulations. But if you look at Page 1 of the
28 executive summary, on section 14, it addresses bear,
29 wolf, and wolverine.

30
31 MR. PERRY: So what it's talking about
32 is that, you know, when you look at bait, that's a
33 broad definition that applies to many different things.
34 It does apply to bear baiting, but it also talks about
35 hunting and trapping of wolverines and wolves. So it's
36 changing of a definition so it's not just specific for
37 baiting for bears, but also for other things. So
38 that's why that's included there.

39
40 MR. ANDREW: Yeah. Thank you.

41
42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other questions
43 for the Department.

44
45 (No comments)

46
47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There being none,
48 thank you very much.

49
50

1 Fish and Wildlife Service.

2

3 MR. STAHLNECKER: No comment.

4

5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: No comments. Tribal
6 and village. Anyone from the tribal or village.

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: No one. And we don't
11 have an InterAgency agent no more, so we'll go on down
12 to other Regional Councils.

13

14 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
15 Again the Western Interior Council RAC met; however, I
16 did not get a full report on the actions that they took
17 on these proposals.

18

19 The Bering Sea AC took up 18-51, and
20 they supported WP18-51 with a vote of 10 support for
21 and 1 absent. And for the Bethel AC, again we'll allow
22 Alissa to speak to that.

23

24 MS. ROGERS: Good afternoon. Alissa
25 Rogers with the Bethel Advisory Council. We supported
26 this proposal unanimously.

27

28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you.

29

30 MR. ULAK: They support or not support.

31

32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Support. Lower
33 Kuskokwim Fish and Game Advisory. Or did you not have
34 your meeting.

35

36 MR. CHARLES: The Lower Kuskokwim have
37 not met yet.

38

39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Subsistence
40 Resource Committee.

41

42 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. We
43 have not received any comments from SRCs at this time.

44

45 We do have three public written
46 comments that were submitted for this proposal, and
47 you'll find those in the analysis for the individual
48 page numbers for WP18-51, on Page 13 is where the
49 public comments begin, and I'll briefly summarize the

50

1 letters that were submitted.

2

3 The first letter was submitted by Jim
4 and Suzanne Kowalsky, and they are representing
5 Alaskans for Wildlife. It says, Alaskans for Wildlife
6 is a statewide member organization that advocates for
7 naturally occurring Alaskan wildlife through.....

8

9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Eva, could you please
10 come closer to the mic.

11

12 MS. PATTON: Yeah. My apologies. So
13 Alaskans for Wildlife is a statewide member
14 organization that advocates for naturally occurring
15 Alaskan wildlife through education and advocacy, and
16 they're based in Fairbanks, Alaska. And they wish to
17 strongly oppose WP18-51 which proposes to allow
18 Federally-qualified subsistence hunters to add the use
19 of human-produced foods and scent to the presently
20 permitted use of biodegradable materials used as bear
21 bait on Federal public lands. While they understand
22 the proposal emerges from a request from the Eastern
23 Regional Advisory Council purportedly to align with
24 Federal and State bear baiting regulations, they have
25 concerns of use such as dog food, popcorn, grease, or
26 syrup to be used by Federally-qualified subsistence
27 users currently, but only on State lands.

28

29 And their objection to -- oh, I'm
30 sorry, there's a typo here. So their objection to 18-
31 51 is concerns for conflicts with food-conditioned
32 bears that may be attracted to these baits, and
33 especially in specific locations where human
34 interaction with bears is increasing. They're
35 concerned that such encounters would increase over time
36 and result in human injuries and deaths. So they're
37 concerned about the -- I'm sorry, they're concerned
38 about the habituation of bears to human food and
39 negative impacts where bears are attracted in areas
40 where there's human waste and communities.

41

42 We have another letter, so again that
43 was in opposition to 18-51. Another letter submitted
44 by Francis Mauer. And his comments on 18-51 were this
45 proposal would lower Federal standards for baiting to
46 the lowest common denominator, noting that the State
47 requirements allow this already, and the use of human
48 food with items such as syrup and nuts and other human
49 refuse will habituate bears and contribute to the

50

1 human/bear conflicts, and expose innocent people to
2 risks from bears that no longer fear humans. And they
3 reference that, for example, birds being attracted to
4 bird feeders in the spring is already an issue, and
5 increasing the use of human foods and scent to bait
6 would increase the problem. And they oppose WP18-51.

7
8 And, oops, here we go. Sorry, I lost
9 track of the first one here. The third letter that was
10 submitted is from Sharon Alden, and she's writing in
11 opposition to Proposal WP18-51, again citing that there
12 should not be human food or other human substance to
13 bait animals, because of the concern for habituation of
14 wild animals to food. And she feels it's an ethical as
15 well as a safety issue, and would not want to see the
16 Federal baiting regulations aligned with the State of
17 Alaska.

18
19 And that concludes the written public
20 comments.

21
22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Regional Council
23 recommendations. What is the wish of the Council
24 concerning WP18-51.

25
26 MR. ULAK: Mr. Chair. I move to
27 support Proposal WP18-51.

28
29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Ulak moved to
30 support 18-51. Do I hear a second.

31
32 MR. BROWN: Second.

33
34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Seconded by Mr. Brown.
35 Any further discussion.

36
37 (No comments)

38
39 MR. ULAK: Question.

40
41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Question called for.
42 A roll call vote, please.

43
44 MR. ULAK: Michael Peters.

45
46 MR. PETERS: Yes.

47
48 MR. ULAK: John Andrew.

49
50

1 MR. ANDREW: Yes.
2
3 MR. ULAK: James Charles.
4
5 MR. CHARLES: Yes.
6
7 MR. ULAK: William Brown.
8
9 MR. BROWN: Yes.
10
11 MR. ULAK: David Bill.
12
13 MR. BILL: Yes.
14
15 MR. ULAK: Raymond Oney.
16
17 MR. ONEY: Yes.
18
19 MR. ULAK: Dorothy Johnson. Annie
20 Cleveland.
21
22 MS. CLEVELAND: Yes.
23
24 MR. ULAK: Myself, yes. Dale Smith.
25 Robert Aloysius.
26
27 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yeah.
28
29 MR. ULAK: Lester Wilde.
30
31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes.
32
33 MR ULAK: Passed.
34
35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion carries
36 unanimously.
37
38 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
39 Just a few words of justification for the support of
40 this proposal, please.
41
42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Anybody justify your
43 vote for adoption.
44
45 MR. ULAK: Mr. Chairman.
46
47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes, Mr. Ulak.
48
49 MR. ULAK: The proposal requests -- it
50

1 more like on bear baiting restrictions be aligned with
2 State regulations, specifically the use of
3 biodegradable materials as stated on this issue.

4
5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Will that be good
6 enough for you?

7
8 MS. PATTON: And just a few words of
9 the Council support for the use of those materials.

10
11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: At this time we are
12 done with our proposals, but we do have a couple things
13 prior to adjourning -- or recessing today is the -- do
14 we have a report from the ANSEP students. Is anyone
15 here from the ANSEP students to give the report or
16 presentation.

17
18 MS. PATTON: Karen Hyer. Yes, so we
19 have a couple ANSEP students here, and Karen Hyer is
20 going to do the introduction, and then we'll introduce
21 our ANSEP students, and we have -- Janessa actually has
22 not arrived yet. She'll be coming.....

23
24 MS. HYER: Yes, she has.
25 (Indiscernible -- away from microphones)

26
27 MS. PATTON: Oh, okay. I missed her
28 stepping in. Yeah. So we'll have presentations from
29 the ANSEP students with a brief introduction. We have
30 Dan Gillikin on teleconference, and he was going to
31 provide a brief PowerPoint and Janelle [sic] will
32 follow up with that, and then we'll have a video of
33 their science camp program, and their student interns
34 from the region.

35
36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We are ready for that?

37
38 MS. PATTON: I think we just need to
39 cue up the computer and the PowerPoint there. We might
40 just dim the lights a little bit so people can see the
41 PowerPoint and then a video. Okay. So we just need a
42 couple minutes here. One student is working on their
43 flight at the moment.

44
45 But I want to check on line. Do we
46 have Dan Gillikin on line?

47
48 MR. GILLIKIN: Yes, I'm here, Eva.

49
50

1 MS. PATTON: Okay. Great, Dan. And
2 Janelle just had to step out for a minute to address
3 her plane ticket, but we have your PowerPoint and video
4 loaded. And Karen Hyer was going to start first with
5 an introduction to the ANSEP program. And we have
6 Randall Friendly here.

7
8 So, Karen, you can go ahead.
9

10 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman. Council
11 members. Good afternoon. My name is Karen Hyer and
12 I'm a fisheries biologist with the Office of
13 Subsistence Management. And I usually work in Northern
14 Alaska, and I work with the North Slope RAC and
15 Northwest Arctic RAC. So it's a real pleasure to be
16 here in Bethel and get to meet you and introduce you to
17 some other things we have going on besides regulations.

18
19 We have a grant through the National
20 Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the Rasmusson
21 Foundation, and that grant helps us employ students,
22 and we're partnering with the Alaska Native Science and
23 Engineering Program to employ students that are
24 studying from Rural Alaska with them, and then they
25 spend the summers working with us. And so we have two
26 of our students here today that will share a little bit
27 about who they are and what they have been doing with
28 us.

29
30 And we last summer employed 15 students
31 through that program, and we had positions throughout
32 all of Alaska, and the students range from places
33 throughout Alaska, too. So we had people from as far
34 north as White Mountain, and then we even had some
35 students that had come to us from Southeast Alaska.

36
37 So it's a great program. It gives the
38 students an opportunity to spend the summer with us,
39 gain some experience, and our long-term goal really is
40 to have these students graduate from university and
41 come and work for us. So that's the overall goal of
42 the student portion.

43
44 This grant also funds some of the work
45 the RITs do right here in the region for the Yukon-
46 Delta Wildlife Refuge. And they're allowed to use the
47 funds for things that have to do with salmon management
48 and so that is another part of the grant that is
49 administered through the Refuge.

1 And in addition to our students, U.S.
2 Fish and Wildlife Service through the Office of OSM
3 also funds our Partners Program, and we call it the
4 Partners for Fisheries Monitoring. And through this
5 program we partner with organizations and provide funds
6 so they can hire fisheries biologists or
7 anthropologists or social scientists or educators to
8 allow them to engage in our Federal subsistence
9 process.

10
11 So this afternoon we have two of our
12 partners here. We have ONC and we have the Native
13 Village of Napaimiut. And they are both working with
14 us in Federal fisheries management. So you'll see two
15 presentations from them also.

16
17 But we're going to start out with
18 Randall Friendly, and he's going to come up and tell
19 you a little bit about himself, and what he did this
20 summer with the wildlife refuge. So, Randall.

21
22 MR. FRIENDLY: Okay. Quyana, Chairman.

23
24 (In Yup'ik)

25
26 INTERPRETER: I'm going to speak in
27 Yup'ik. My Yup'ik name is Seenno (ph). I'm Randall
28 Friendly from Tuntutuliak. I'm attending UAA's.

29
30 MR. FRIENDLY: I'm a fourth year
31 majoring in biological sciences and minor in
32 mathematics. (In Yup'ik)

33
34 INTERPRETER: I started working at Fish
35 and Wildlife at Kodiak, and a couple years later
36 started working here in Bethel regarding the migratory
37 birds here. It is really important for the
38 conservation of the wildlife, and so it is a really
39 important issue. And after I finish my -- after I get
40 my bachelor's degree in wildlife, I want to go into and
41 get my master's degree. And after that my goal is to
42 work for the Fish and Wildlife Services here, helping
43 our issues in our area here which is very important for
44 me, and I think that's just my introduction of me.

45
46 Thank you.

47
48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Do you have any
49 questions for the (indiscernible -- away from

50

1 microphone)

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (Indiscernible -- away
6 from microphone)

7

8 MS. PATTON: And then I believe next --
9 did you want to go ahead? Are you waiting for Janelle?

10

11 MS. ESQUIBLE: No. I can go. She's
12 gone again (indiscernible -- away from microphones).

13

14 MS. PATTON: Pardon?

15

16 MS. ESQUIBLE: (Indiscernible -- away
17 from microphones)

18

19 MS. PATTON: Okay. Yeah, so you can go
20 ahead and....

21

22 MS. ESQUIBLE: (Indiscernible -- away
23 from microphones)

24

25 MS. PATTON: Yeah. Okay. So next we
26 have Janessa, and she's going to provide an overview of
27 the Orutsararmiut Native Council Program. And we have
28 one of our esteemed Council members who participated in
29 their science camp and culture camp program. And we do
30 have a PowerPoint for that one.

31

32 MS. ESQUIBLE: Okay. There are a
33 couple of animations. Is there like a remote or --
34 anything I -- or I could just let know.

35

36 MS. KENNER: (Indiscernible -- away
37 from microphones) have a clicker for this.

38

39 MS. ESQUIBLE: That's okay. There
40 aren't that many so.....

41

42 MS. KENNER: Okay. So do you want the
43 PowerPoint?

44

45 MS. ESQUIBLE: Yeah.

46

47 MS. KENNER: Janessa, do you want me to
48 -- I would like to help if you want me to go to the
49 next slide, you know, let me (indiscernible -- away

50

1 from microphones).

2

3 MS. ESQUIBLE: Okay. All right. Hello
4 everyone. I think I know some of you here in front of
5 me today, and thanks for listening. So my name is
6 Janessa Esquible, and currently I'm the ONC Partners
7 biologist. So today I'm going to chat with you all
8 about some of our summer activities.

9

10 Next.

11

12 All right. Just to give you an
13 overview of what I'm going to be discussing today, I'll
14 give some updates on our Bethel test fishing
15 distribution program, the in-season subsistence harvest
16 monitoring, and the Chinook salmon age, sex, length
17 sampling program. But the majority of my talk today
18 will focus on the youth, more specifically our summer
19 youth representative program, which was new this year,
20 ONC's involvement with the Alaska Native Science and
21 Engineering internship program, and then the ONC
22 science and culture camp.

23

24 Next.

25

26 All right. So for the Bethel test
27 fishery distribution program, this program was really
28 initiated by Greg Roczicka with the help of Alissa
29 Rogers. And it was set up in attempts to prioritize
30 who was receiving the fish from Bethel test fishery
31 that they caught, but couldn't release. And so the
32 program has been going on for many years. And this
33 summer we had lots of help. Here's our high school
34 intern, Elijah Lindley on the right here delivering
35 fish to our local elders, widows, disabled. And then
36 we also work with the Refuge to try and distribute fish
37 to nearby villages, especially to those who had
38 recently experienced a death in the family. And so
39 that's what we did this summer with Bethel test fishery
40 distribution throughout the month of June. And we were
41 able to distribute 611 fish to 182 households about.

42

43 Next.

44

45 For the in-season subsistence harvest
46 monitoring program, I'm not going to get too much into
47 this program, because I went over it in more detail
48 last year at this meeting, but I do just want to give
49 some updates. This is the last year of funding for

50

1 this project and the Chinook salmon ASL program. But
2 we did submit proposal, and we hope to continue the
3 work. The fish camp surveys have been going on for a
4 little over 15 years.

5
6 And here's Anna Pavila on the top left.
7 She was one of our ANSEP interns from Tuntutuliak. And
8 here she is. She was a fluent Yup'ik speaker, really
9 enjoyed her time out at the fish camps reconnecting
10 with some of her old family members and friends.

11
12 We collected mostly at these fish camps
13 harvest and effort data, but we also got some
14 information from the families on any concerns that they
15 had on the health of the fishery and then also on how
16 these management restrictions and so forth, how they're
17 affecting these fishing families. And we would report
18 our results to the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management
19 Working Group each week.

20
21 Next.

22
23 Okay. For the Chinook salmon, age, sex
24 length sampling program, this again is another program
25 that we've been running in coordination with Alaska
26 Department of Fish and Game. And so this year was a
27 little bit different in which we tried to do a lot of
28 the recruitment with the youth, so we gave some
29 presentations to the local Bethel Regional High School,
30 Gladys Young, hoping that maybe some of the youth would
31 want to get involved with the sampling. And due to the
32 closures throughout the month of June and then the
33 limited fishing opportunities for Chinook salmon and
34 also not everyone was targeting Chinook salmon because
35 of the conservation concern, we weren't able to recruit
36 as many people as we'd hoped, but we did still recruit
37 some of our regulars that had been participating the
38 program for many years. And we also opportunistically
39 sampled out at the Bethel boat harbor with folks that
40 were coming in from fishing, and then out at fish camp.

41
42 And here's our high school intern.
43 Some of you might know him. This is Avery Hoffman, now
44 a 12th grader. And then we have Danielle Lawery, she's
45 our other ANSEP student.

46
47 Next.

48
49 Okay. The summer youth representative

50

1 program. So this was a new program that we implemented
2 this year at ONC. The goal of the program was really
3 to recruit local high school students that were
4 interested in natural resource management, and that
5 also participated in subsistence themselves. So
6 whether they went fishing for their family or whoever
7 it was, we were hoping to get someone who had interest
8 in this. And we ended up being really fortunate enough
9 to work with Avery Hoffman and Elijah Lindley. They
10 were really awesome students, and they expressed great
11 interest in fisheries. Both of them attended the
12 majority of the in-season management meetings that we
13 had this year, and they were able to gain exposure to
14 how management decisions are made in-season. You know,
15 the complexity of the fishery here. And then they also
16 spent a lot of time at different fishery projects.
17 They both went to weirs, they helped us out at fish
18 camp, the boat harbor. They helped with sampling. And
19 then at the very end of the season, Anna Pavila and
20 Avery Hoffman were able to go on the KYUK radio where
21 they talked about the importance of local youth being
22 involved in our fisheries and the management of
23 fisheries, and the importance of their presence.
24 There's very few youth that come to, for instance, the
25 Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group
26 meetings in the summer, and so they talked about that
27 some as well.

28
29 So ONC, the past Partners biologist
30 have been working with ANSEP interns for many years.
31 And this season we were fortunate enough to work with
32 four different ANSEP interns, so we had Anna Pavila,
33 from Tuntutuliak and Danielle Lawery from Bethel.
34 These two students worked with us the majority of the
35 summer. And then Athena Borstad and Janelle Carl,
36 which you'll meet Janelle pretty soon here, they both
37 worked with us from anywhere from 7 to 10 days, and
38 that was really -- I'd like to thank Native Village of
39 Napaimiut and then also the Bristol Bay Native
40 Association that allowed the students to do an exchange
41 program. And so that was really awesome.

42
43 Okay. So for the internship
44 experience, sorry, that bottom left photo is kind of
45 dark, but I'll start by talking about that photo first.
46 So Dan Gillikin took us up the Holokuk and that was
47 really fun. We went myself, Janelle and Anna. And
48 although we didn't find any king salmon to sample, the
49 students still did learn about the importance of water
50

1 quality monitoring. They learned how to deploy these
2 little hobos, these data loggers, and the importance of
3 monitoring the spawning tributaries.

4
5 And then for Danielle Lawery in the
6 middle, that's her photo, and then the background photo
7 here is one she provided. She spent some time out in
8 Dillingham where she learned lots. She did. She
9 learned lots about the importance of spawning habitat
10 for sockeye salmon, how do you quantify viable spawning
11 habitat. She also learned how to do different sampling
12 with adult salmon, and lots of juvenile sampling. So
13 she learned how to use the minnow traps which we see on
14 the bottom right here. She learned about beach stains,
15 stick stains. And so Danielle had a really great
16 experience, and she's actually hoping to go back and
17 work there next summer.

18
19 And then on the bottom right photo we
20 have Athena, myself, and Anna Pavila. And they spent
21 some time at the Kwethluk weir, and so they learned
22 about juvenile salmon sampling as well as adult
23 sampling, the importance of all these assessment
24 projects like the weir, the Bethel test fishery, and so
25 on.

26
27 Next.

28
29 Okay. Next I'll talk about the ONC
30 science and culture camp. And so this was the first
31 time ONC was able to conduct the science and culture
32 camp. It was really fun. We weren't able to recruit
33 that many students, but we did work with seven
34 different students. And then the main goal of the
35 program again was to introduce local high schoolers to
36 career options in the natural resources.

37
38 And so you can start -- this is the
39 slide that has animations. Do you want to press next?
40 Yeah.

41
42 So we had an avian biologist with us.

43
44 Next. You can just keep clicking if
45 you want.

46
47 And then we had an ethnobotany portion.
48 Fish biology and then wildlife management. And for the
49 cultural component we were fortunate enough to have two
50

1 elders, one of who is here today. James Charles, and
2 then Martha Larson.

3
4 If you want to click over to the next
5 slide.

6
7 And so James Charles is from, yep, as
8 you all know from Tuntutuliak, and Martha Larson from
9 Kwigillingok. And so they were able to share quite a
10 bit of knowledge with the students. James Charles was
11 with us the entire program. He decided he wanted to
12 stay even for the ethnobotany portion. And he had a
13 really awesome time with the students. The students
14 loved James Charles. He was pretty much like the
15 program superstar from sharing stories with them about
16 using his four horsepower motor to talking about the
17 importance of a resource not just being for one
18 village, but for the entire Kuskokwim.

19
20 And we had Martha Larson come and share
21 her knowledge on the traditional uses and medicinal
22 uses of a lot of these local plants.

23
24 For the avian biology component we had
25 Kristine Sowl from the local Refuge here in Bethel, and
26 we did some fun activities with her. She showed the
27 students how to set a mismat (ph) which is in that
28 bottom right photo, and we actually caught a common red
29 poll. I don't know if you guys have seen them, they're
30 pretty small, and they have red on their red cap.
31 Anyways that was really fun and the students learned
32 about how you can sample birds and not just fish. And
33 we were able to weigh the bird as you seen in that top
34 middle photo. We even were able to sex it and then
35 kind of figure out how old it was and was it in good
36 condition or not, things like that.

37
38 Next slide.

39
40 For the ethnobotony component of the
41 program, we had Dr. Sara Harrison, Martha Larson, and
42 James Charles helping us. Here the students were able
43 to learn about plant anatomy. They also made their own
44 plant collection. And so if you look at the bottom
45 left and then the bottom right photo, that's them using
46 a plant press where we all went out and looked for nine
47 different plants species and then we would press them.
48 And so that plant collection was one of the products of
49 the camp that will be available here at the library,

50

1 just right across the hall here hopefully pretty soon.

2

3 They also learned how to conduct and
4 ethnobotanical interview, so how to figure out, you
5 know, what are some of the traditional medicinal uses
6 of the plants. Yeah. So it was really great having
7 Sara, Martha, and James help us. And also the elders
8 were able to provide some Yup'ik translations for the
9 plants.

10

11 For the fish biology component we had
12 Aaron Webber, James Charles and myself who did lots of
13 different activities with the students. We were able
14 to first spend the majority -- the first day of the
15 camp really we spent at the weir, the Kwethluk weir.
16 None of the students had ever been to a weir before.
17 They had no idea what it was, why it was there. And so
18 they were able to learn about the importance of the
19 weir, what it does, and then they got some hand's-on
20 experience. So they went across those panels that you
21 see on the bottom right safely into that live box, and
22 they were able to do some sampling as you see in the
23 top right photo. So they learned how to identify adult
24 salmon, now to get samples, genetic samples from them,
25 and then how to measure them and figure out if they're
26 male or female. On the bottom left, we did some minnow
27 trapping, too, so the students were able to learn about
28 juvenile habitat. And the importance of woody debris in
29 beaver habitat.

30

31 For the wildlife management component
32 of the program we had Lisa Maas come in from Anchorage,
33 and she was able to teach the students about the
34 Federal regulatory process that we're all a part of
35 today. The students were able to listen and also read
36 a past proposal that was submitted and kind of walk
37 through the steps that you all go through and many
38 others do in evaluating a proposal. And then at the
39 very end the students were able to write their own
40 proposal.

41

42 In addition to this, Lisa Maas and
43 James Charles really emphasized the importance of the
44 students knowing about this public process that is
45 available for them to participate in, and that they
46 should take action if they felt needed to. And just to
47 kind of get them to become more aware that this process
48 is here. And so that was really cool for the students
49 to experience that, too.

50

1 And with that, quyana to all of our
2 partners: ANSEP, Fish and Wildlife, ONC, Alaska
3 Department of Fish and Game, Kuskokwim InterTribal Fish
4 Commission.

5
6 Yeah, thanks for listening.

7
8 (Applause)

9
10 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chairman, if I may.

11
12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes, go ahead, Alissa.

13
14 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
15 Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As you all know, we lost Greg
16 this past year, but I just wanted to have an extended
17 applause from Ms. Janessa here. She's done an amazing
18 job with our program, and really stepped it up to the
19 next level of outreach and reaching out to our youth,
20 especially with this youth program that we have, and
21 taking on more ANSEP students than just our normal two
22 ANSEP students that we normally had, which she's done
23 an amazing job. And Greg and I used to talk about how
24 proud of her we are.

25
26 Thank you.

27
28 (Applause)

29
30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you very much
31 and we are going to recess until.....

32
33 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. We
34 have Dan Gillikin is on line, and he has a brief
35 introduction to their student intern program and
36 science camp program. We'll finish with a lovely
37 video. So if Karen can cue that up. So we'll end with
38 a relaxing video.

39
40 So, Dan, we're just cuing up your
41 PowerPoint and video here.

42
43 MR. GILLIKIN: Is everybody ever to
44 hear me okay?

45
46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes, we can.

47
48 MR. GILLIKIN: Okay. And hopefully
49 somebody can drive the projector there and just advance

50

1 slides for me.

2

3 MS. PATTON: Yep. Just say next when
4 you're ready to go next. We've got your PowerPoint up.

5

6 MR. GILLIKIN: Okay. So the
7 PowerPoint's up. So the first slide should be a lovely
8 picture of Napaimiut.

9

10 Thank you, Mr. Chair and Council
11 members. And I know it's very late in the day, and so
12 I'm going to do my very best to keep this very brief.

13

14 This is the Native Village of Napaimiut
15 Partners program. This is the third year of our
16 program here in the middle Kuskokwim.

17

18 Next slide, please.

19

20 So the primary functions and services
21 that the Partners program through Napaimiut provides
22 are, you know, representing the tribal members of
23 Napaimiut and providing advice to other tribal folks
24 and stakeholders in the middle river region. We
25 partner a lot with other agencies, you know, on
26 fisheries monitoring projects. We work very diligently
27 at trying to build a professional local workforce, and
28 we do a lot of outreach and education, youth education
29 in particular. Those are kind of the primary things
30 that we're trying to accomplish with our program up
31 here.

32

33 Next slide, please.

34

35 So we should be looking at slide 3, and
36 it's a fisheries monitoring project. This is the third
37 year that we've been operating the Salmon River weir.
38 It's funded this last year through the Pacific States
39 Marine Fisheries Commission. And that was funding that
40 the Bering Sea Fishermen's Association worked with us
41 on procuring from the 2012 disaster relief funds. It
42 was intended to operate just during the Chinook and
43 chum salmon season, so we shortened the season, and we
44 hired four local crews, and we were able to count about
45 90 percent of the chum run and 85 percent -- or, I'm
46 sorry, 90 percent of the Chinook run and 85 percent of
47 the chum run, so we will be able to get good estimates
48 on those total escapements into the Salmon River.
49 Unlike last year, we weren't plagued with high water,

50

1 and so we only had a few days of non-operation at the
2 weir.

3

4

Next slide, please.

5

6

7 One of the other fisheries monitoring
8 projects that I think's been a great success here in
9 the middle river is the Aniak test fishery. Its also
10 was funded by the Pacific States Marine Fisheries
11 Commission, and it operated from beginning of June
12 until mid July. I think the information proved to be
13 very valuable to fisheries managers and advisory group
14 members in decisionmaking during the fishing season as
15 to whether or not allow more fishing or less fishing.
16 It also employed three local crew members, and we
17 distributed the few fish -- we only kill about 10
18 percent of the total Chinook that we harvest -- or that
19 we catch in the test fishery up here, because we're
20 able to release them. And they were all distributed
21 locally and to a couple of the nearby villages.

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Next slide, please.

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So one of the other major projects was
working with ADF&G Subsistence Division on in-season
subsistence harvest monitoring here in the middle
river. We went to the nearby villages and surveyed a
total of 142 households in-season while they were
fishing. And this is the third year of this -- I'm
sorry, this is a three-year project, and we started it
in earnest this last year, so we have a few more years
of it. And we got useful information from that to
provide to managers, so that they could evaluate how
the fishery was progressing throughout the season, and
there's a chart shown there as of 8/12 that many
households I found interesting had not yet met their
needs or just had pretty much given up for the season.

1 But we'll be continuing this next year.

2

3

Next slide, please.

4

5

6 So as I mentioned at the very
7 beginning, some of our primary focuses are outreach,
8 and in particular trying to share in-season fisheries
9 management information with people in the middle river
10 here. That's a need that has been identified over and
11 over and over again. You just can't see to do enough
12 outreach with folks out here to let them know when they
13 can fish, how they can fish, when they shouldn't fish,
14 how many fish are they allowed, things like that.
15 There's going to always be that need. And we use social
16 media, we do postings. We even have five technicians
17 hired in the villages, local villages that to around
18 and they actually will talk to the folks they know in
19 the village and post notices, and then let people know
20 that, you know, it will be opened next week, or it will
21 be opened tomorrow, and what size gear they can use,
22 things like that.

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Related to outreach, we also get
involved in the advisory board meetings, the working
group in particular. And we get involved in some of
the other workshops that -- to evaluate the fisheries
and the science of the fisheries, so try to stay
involved in all of those aspects of management,
everything from your group there, the RAC, to the Board
of Fish, and also provide advice to people on how they
can use -- get involved in the process to provide their
input into how the fishery is managed.

Next slide, please.

One of the really important things that
we try to do is build our capacity, to get local people
more involved in the fishery. And one of the critical
ways of doing that is to develop a skilled workforce.
So we've made, you know, a directed effort to have
programs that will employ people with jobs where they
can learn a skill set that they can use out here. Last
year we hired 12 technicians. We provided 11 paid
internships on the George River. We had 29 fishermen
for the in-season project, harvest monitoring project
that we paid stipends to collect harvest data from
their catch for us.

And then, of course, we had one ANSEP

1 intern, Janelle Carl. Hopefully she's there and hasn't
2 run away, and I'd like to introduce her right now and
3 have her speak about who she is a little bit, and then
4 I'd like her to introduce our next, most favorite
5 projects that we do out here, and that's the George
6 River internship and the math and science expedition
7 and then they can play the video.

8
9 So, Janelle, if you're there, if you
10 could please introduce yourself, and play the video, we
11 can let these folks get to dinner.

12
13 Thank you very much.

14
15 Is anybody there?

16
17 MS. PATTON: Hi, Dan. Yep, we've got
18 Janelle here as our next star student. We'd like you
19 to say a few words for the Council about your work.

20
21 MS. CARL: Yeah. I just came in. I'm
22 Janelle Carl from Kipnuk.

23
24 This summer I did the Aniak test
25 fishery, and I helped around at the office, and the GI.
26 I studied bugs for the GI, which are macro
27 invertebrates. Bentic macro invertebrates. And I
28 taught the students how to identify the bugs, and how
29 to get them. And we put in the data from last year and
30 this year. And then here's a video from Dan about the
31 GI.

32
33 MR. GILLIKIN: Thank you, Janelle. She
34 sold herself very short. She was a big help up here
35 this summer. Hopefully everybody will enjoy the video
36 and get a good dinner.

37
38 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Janelle, and
39 think you, Randa (ph). Really inspiring. I'm
40 inspired, and this video is also really inspiring of
41 all the student interns and science camp students that
42 they worked with this summer.

43
44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We will recess until
45 tomorrow morning at 9:00 o'clock. And ANSEP students,
46 we are very proud to have you here, and we welcome you
47 hear, and we've heard about your program for a long
48 time. And it's finally a pleasure to meet some of the
49 participants. Thank you for coming, and thank you for

50

1 your presentation.

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(Off record)

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(PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

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